

# Latin America Report



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11 October 1984

## LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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OPPOSITION SEES ECONOMIC PLAN AS INEFFECTUAL

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 2 Sep 84 p 18

[Text] Opposition to the future of the short-range economic plan has been expressed by Liberal leader Alvaro Alsogaray and Justicialist economists Eduardo Setti and Jorge Dominguez. For the former, the content of the plan violates constitutional precepts and for the latter two men, the political timing is bad. On the other hand, rural leaders Horacio Gutierrez (Argentine Rural Society) and Raul Romero Feris (Argentine Rural Confederations) stated, without analyzing the program itself, that it is necessary to take action against inflation. Romero Feris said that his group accepted the program "as a government measure."

Alsogaray

Mar del Plata (DYN)--National Deputy Alvaro Alsogaray said that "the alleged anti-inflationary program announced by the government constitutes a new and ineffective attempt at economic management that will fail in less than three months."

Alsogaray added that he hopes that "this will be the end of the inflationary government intervention in business, which for 40 years has upset Argentine life."

In statements to the press, the head of the Democratic Center Union (UCD) explained that "the experiment that is now beginning implies a return to the attempt made between January and March of this year, which ended in the most complete failure."

"The only difference between the two," the lawmaker said, "is that this time they want to limit wages."

He maintained that "the program outlined implies a new advance of the state into private activities, in open violation of constitutional principles."

"It contains controls of wages, prices, profits margins, sales systems and, in general, of all the variables of the economic process," he added.



Finally, Alsogaray warned that "in two or three more days, we shall reveal our technical opposition to the government program and point out the consequences it will have on the people."

#### Justicialists

Similar opinions of the short-term economic measures announced by the government were expressed by Justicialist economists Eduardo Setti and Jorge Dominguez when questioned by LA NACION. Setti noted that the program is recessive and in accordance with the policies modeled by the International Monetary Fund in their "crudest version." In answer to a question about the way in which the situation should be faced, he said that "it is very difficult now," but that what should have been done was "to accept the general conditions of the IMF and then try to carry out the adjustment policy without hurting productive aspects."

"How could this be done?" he was asked.

"As we have said many times, by modifying consumption patterns, for example."

Dominguez thought that the policy being attempted was not in keeping with the times. "A monetary contraction such as the one planned was possible in January, but now it would be much more difficult." He explained: "In the beginning, the government had many more sectors available to support action of this time than is now the case."

#### Gutierrez

Shortly before his opinion was asked on the short-term economic plan and the anti-inflationary measures that the government will take, the president of the Argentine Rural Society, Horacio Gutierrez, had arrived in the country from Brazil.

He said that he therefore did not have enough information to give an opinion on the matter, but he noted that "we must try to stop inflation, the greatest evil from which our country suffers. We must all do it because it is the responsibility of everyone to help. We hope that the government will be successful in this fight against inflation."

#### Romero Feris

For his part, the president of the Argentine Rural Confederations (CRA), Raul Romero Feris, said that his organization accepted the short-term economic plan as "a government measure" and that it was neither going to analyze nor argue. "We accept it as a measure to be carried out by the government, although it could not have been analyzed because it goes into effect on 1 September and it was revealed to us on 30 August."

The head of the CRA also said that they are very interested in medium- and long-range measures and in some conciliation in that direction. "We agree with this," he said, "and we are going to continue attending the meetings because we understand that every sector has to do its part to get the country on its feet."

NEW BILL ON DISCRIMINATION GOES TO CONGRESS

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 7 Sep 84 p 4.

[Text] The Executive Branch has sent a bill to Congress that would nullify any act of discrimination or harassment aimed at persons or groups because of race, nationality, religion, sex, ideology, private actions or physical characteristics.

The bill would affect the action of companies and both public and private individuals with some exceptions precisely spelled out by the text. In addition, indemnifications are established, along with systems for the judicial enforcement of the new provisions.

In addition, the bill modifies several articles in the penal code, adding sanctions for crimes stemming from racial, religious, ideological or national discrimination and in such cases, increasing the penalties. It also establishes the competency of the federal jurisdiction for any legal proceedings that might result.

Basis

The bill is based on provisions of the National Constitution and on treaties on human rights, signed and ratified by Argentina in the past 20 years. It seeks to ensure equal treatment in public and private jobs, in contractual relations with the government or between private parties, in access to and use of services and, above all, with reference to respect and consideration for other members of society.

The message accompanying the bill states that while it is true that our country has been exempt from the most vulgar forms of discrimination and harassment seen in other nations, it is also true that there are forms of unjustified discrimination against some social sectors. As examples, it observes that citizens of Jewish origin or those belonging to certain Protestant sectors have been excluded from certain public institutions and private associations, that women do not have the same possibilities as men of reaching high posts in public administration in general and that foreigners have been excluded from public offices for which the law does not require Argentine nationality.

## Provisions

The provisions are divided into 18 articles and regulate three types of actions:

Discrimination practiced in public administration in the appointment and promotion of civil servants and officials or in the granting of services, recognition of rights or other acts and contracts involving the administration.

Certain discriminatory conditions set forth by private parties, for example, in private places open to the public such as restaurants, movie theaters or businesses. In such cases, it is deemed sufficient to resort to penalties of a contraventional nature, such as disqualification and fines.

Acts of private parties that do not imply discrimination, but rather, harassment. In this case, it is not the expression of racist, sexist or xenophobic ideas that is the target, but only when it adopts an insulting nature or is done for propaganda, takes the form of acts of violence or instigation to commit such acts. This entire category of actions must be the object of penal sanctions and in many cases, they consist of increases in those imposed for basic penal violations.

For this purpose, a reform is made in the provisions of articles 75, 80, 95, 149b, c and d, 184 and 186 of the penal code, through the substitution of paragraphs and the addition of others. Different ranges of penalties are established, ranging from 3 to 4 years in prison in the case of death in a dispute motivated by hatred for a race, religion, nationality or ideology.

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## FARM SECTOR BESET BY WEATHER, STORAGE, LOADING FACTORS

### Importance of Grain Market

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 1 Sep 84 sec 3 p 12

[Article by Emilio Jorge Delaux, LA NACION correspondent in Rosario]

[Excerpts] Rosario---The grain trade which brings in so much revenue for the country is important in this city. It develops within the secure and legal framework of the Grain Market which, like the Stock Market, operates under the tutelage of the hundred-year-old Trade Exchange. Therefore, it was essential to talk with the president of that institution, accountant Victor M. Cabanellas. He holds that top position for the second time, testimony to the prestige he enjoys in that sector.

He stated that the importance of the Grain Market "is evident in the volume of operations recorded. In 1983 this reached 10 million tons." He also indicated that the port of Rosario is the primary grain-exporting port in the country. Others are river ports like San Martin and San Nicolas. He emphasized that all the merchandise that is exported is analyzed in the laboratories of the Arbitral Granary. It is estimated that 11 million tons of grain will be analyzed this year.

### Oleaginous Industry

The president of the Trade Exchange pointed out the considerable growth in oleaginous products. "Within a radius of 30 kilometers from Rosario what could be called, perhaps, the largest oleaginous industrial complex in the world has been erected with an installed production capacity that makes it possible to export primary industrialized products worth about \$1.5 billion per year. This is equivalent to 15 percent of all Argentine exports."

### Private Ports

He continued: "This region is the only place in the country where there are private ports for directly loading grain. We know of five ports that are functioning. Some of them have a loading capacity of 2,500 tons per hour so that a ship can be loaded in 10 hours. This contrasts with what is seen on our docks where it takes 20 to 25 days to load the ships at a cost of at least \$5,000 per



day. This delay costs the country \$100,000 to \$150,000 per ship. The initiative and effort of the private enterprises made these goals possible without any contribution from the state except its permission. The enterprises bought the land in a ravine area and invested \$30 million to \$40 million in construction."

#### Agricultural-Livestock Production

Mr Cabanellas stated: "Agricultural-livestock production in the last decade has grown but not as much as in other countries." He pointed out that in "the United States, grain and oleaginous production doubles every 10 years." He said: "If we had maintained that rhythm and that of Canada and Australia, obviously our production would be at least 80 million tons. Argentina has this objective. All that is needed from the public sector is that it provide the natural conditions for such objectives and not return to the old practice of transfers from agriculture to other sectors of the community. This mechanism would provide an immediate source of revenue but would permanently compromise the future of the country."

#### Prices, Shipments, Storage

As to domestic grain prices, our speaker maintained that they depend on two factors: parity and the system of retentions. Concerning the latter, he was happy about the presidential announcement to progressively reduce that tax on exports beginning 1 October. He maintained that this system means a loss of 25 percent of the price for the producer. He also stated that if the system of shipment and domestic transportation of grain are more efficient, the producer will receive more profitable prices.

He stressed that "the shipment system and storage capacity are far from efficient." He continued that storage of grains and oleaginous products takes care of only 70 percent of the annual production. In the United States and Canada, the storage capacity is twice the annual production. He said: "A country that does not have storage capacity loses negotiating room."

#### Plant Corn

He indicated that planting wheat had slowed down due to adverse climatic conditions. It reached 40 percent in Cordoba and 25 percent in Santa Fe. There were also major reductions in La Pampa and southern Buenos Aires, a wheat area par excellence. He emphasized that the idea was to replace that crop with soybeans but the drop in the price of that oleaginous crop on the international market discouraged planting. That is why the option might be to increase the corn crop.

#### Difficult Situation in El Chaco

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 1 Sep 84 sec 3 pp 1, 3

[Article by Jose V. Derewicki, LA NACION correspondent in Resistencia]

[Text] Resistencia--The El Chaco countryside is paralyzed as a result of the adverse climatic conditions it has suffered in recent years. This was

accompanied by economic and financial policies that pushed the producer in this province to the greatest indebtedness in its history. This year, as a result of rains and drizzles that lasted for 3 months, the cotton, sorghum and soybean crops could not be harvested. Also cultivating the soil for planting crops like wheat and sunflower was delayed.

In this very critical situation, the lack of adequate infrastructure, shortage of storage capacity, the atrocious condition of major routes, the lack of an adequate water policy as well as the tearing up of railway lines become major factors in the development of El Chaco agriculture.

However, they are not the only ones. It is necessary to add the lack of adequate credit and the low profitability of the crops in spite of the fact that, in recent years, there has been an increase in production and quality.

#### Water Drama

The latest floods caused by rivers overflowing--mainly the Teuco and the Bermejo--covered 170,000 hectares, mainly in the department of General San Martin. As a result of the heavy rains and flooding, 12 other departments were affected for a total of 1.6 million hectares. This is about 16 percent of the entire province.

The main crops hurt were cotton and sorghum. Some 60,000 hectares of cotton and 17,000 of sorghum were lost out of 314,000 and 190,000 hectares, respectively. Of course, what was saved or resisted the floods suffered losses in yield and quality. There was also a drop in prices which did not constitute an incentive for the long-suffering man in the field.

If we quantify the losses at the average price paid for these crops at the granary, they total 1 billion Argentine pesos.

The livestock sector was also hurt by the floods and adverse climatic conditions. In San Martin Department, 46,000 head were affected and 252,102 head in the rest of the departments. This will have unfavorable repercussions on calving and breeding as well as the general condition of livestock. The results will be visible at the end of winter.

#### Diversification

There are 3.5 million hectares in El Chaco that can be used agriculturally. Only about 1 million are planted. Within these limits, it can be said that diversification was achieved due to the constant work of INTA [National Institute of Agricultural-Livestock Technology] and the extension workers of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock. However, it was basically due to the need for subsistence which forced the producer to end the cotton monoculture in search of new horizons.

However, everything is more difficult in this region because El Chaco, compared to the wet pampas, has an unstable climate with rainfalls that vary from 300 to 1,200 millimeters per year. This makes agricultural activity risky.

It can be observed that sunflowers increased rapidly in recent years due to the hybrid varieties appearing on the market. This year 200,000 hectares will be planted. The technicians think that it will displace sorghum in the future because of soil conditions and new cultivars that will make it more profitable. At this time it covers 300,000 hectares. Sunflowers could cover 500,000 hectares within the next 5 years.

#### Cotton and Soybean

Cotton will continue to be the pivot of the El Chaco economy because of its multiplier effect and major participation in the gross product. In the 1981-82 harvest, the gross value of the textile reached \$47 million. It was \$83 million in 1982-83. It is estimated that it will remain at 400,000 to 500,000 hectares but the new varieties will increase production and quality of the fiber as occurs now. The provincial average that in recent years was about 1,000 kilograms per hectare was greatly surpassed.

Within this diversification in El Chaco, the presence of soybeans must be pointed out. It made its appearance some years ago, especially in the south and southwest where prospects are encouraging. It might cover 100,000 hectares within the next 5-year period. Its growth was favored by the installation of industries in northern Santa Fe and the introduction of varieties well adapted to the region. These permit a secure harvest and satisfactory yield of about 2,000 kilograms per hectare.

In spite of all the contingencies in the zone compared to other regions in the country, it can be said that El Chaco is diversified at the provincial level. This is not true at the farm level since they are not worked based on rotation of crops for the best use of the land. There is also a shortage of diversified activities with the objective of protecting the producers from climatic and economic variables.

#### The Future

Until now, El Chaco has produced without the guarantees needed for real progress. However, its future is promising because there is still a large area to be used for production using a broad, but not speculative criterion.

President Alfonsín announced the creation of the Institute for Recovery of the Cooperative System at the beginning of July in an attempt to rescue that practically bankrupt sector which has a massive debt of 2.2 billion pesos. However, in order to protect production, realistic plans must be implemented not only from a national criterion but a provincial one with clear objectives that must involve formulation of a cotton policy.

This must stimulate production with subsequent industrialization in the places of origin and, at the same time, encourage research to achieve the necessary progress in quality of fiber and expeditious marketing and exporting. This must be done carefully so that no sector advances ahead of the other. For the other crops, the price of products in marginal regions must be an incentive, not a punishment. It must also come on time and not as in the last sunflower harvest when the price was learned after all the production had been shipped.

Bank credits must have the necessary fluidity and Ferrocarriles Argentinos and the National River Fleet must coordinate transportation to shipment ports with the real production needs in the area so that the development of El Chaco agriculture becomes a reality, not a game of chance.

#### Sunflower Production: 2.2 Million Tons

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Aug 84 sec 3 p 2

[Text] The second estimate for sunflower production made by the National Service for Rural Economy and Sociology of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock for the current 1983-84 harvest totals 2.2 million tons. This estimate is 200,000 tons or 8.3 percent less than the 2.4 million produced in the last harvest. However, it represents an increase of 26.1 percent or 456,000 tons over the 1,744,000 tons average in the past 5-year period. It is an increase of 799,300 tons or 57.1 percent compared to the average of the last decade, 1,400,700 tons.

This estimate acknowledges reduced production in almost all the provinces except Cordoba. The main cause for this decreased production is the persistent rains that occurred in the last stages of development of the crop. This made the ground unsuitable at the time of the harvest with subsequent overturns and losses. This phenomenon was attenuated by the characteristics of the new hybrids. Shorter with a thicker stem, they are more resistant to these problems. There were also losses due to the ravages of sclerotinia which causes the heads to rot.

The province of Buenos Aires recorded the largest reduction, a decrease of 60,000 tons out of the previous total of 1.51 million tons or 4 percent. El Chaco's production went down 114,000 tons with production this year of only 79,000 tons, only 41 percent of its past production of 193,000 tons. Santa Fe lowered its production 27,000 tons, a decrease of 14.4 percent from the previous total of 187,000 tons.

The only increase was in Cordoba where production totaled 314,000 tons, an increase of 14,000 tons or 4.7 percent over the figures of the last harvest which was 300,000 tons.

This second estimate is 40,000 tons or 1.79 percent lower than the first estimate made by the same organization.

#### Studies on Silo Construction

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Aug 84 sec 3 p 2

[Text] The committee on grain storage planning headed by engineer Norberto Pasini met at the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock and resolved to authorize a call for bids for engineering studies for 22 silos. The National Grain Board will construct them in the NOA [Argentine Northwest] and NEA [Argentine Northeast] regions.



This resolution begins execution of the announcement made by President Raul Alfonsin in his speech 12 August at the Palermo livestock exhibit. He anticipated that these storage plants will begin to operate next year.

These grain storage installations will be constructed with financing from the World Bank and the national government. Preliminary estimates call for an investment of about \$28 million.

The basic mission of the committee on grain storage planning is supervision of the execution of the World Bank project. In addition to the silos mentioned, it includes improvement of railway accesses, railway transportation, the construction of private silos and studies for the expansion of the port of Bahia Blanca. The committee was formed by: engineer Roberto Echarte, deputy minister of public works and services; Mr Horacio Diaz Hermelo from the same ministry; Mr Jose D. Villadeamigo, assistant secretary of transportation; Dr Raul Olocco, assistant secretary of finance; engineer J. F. Kelemen, deputy minister of economy; Mr Carlos M. Pinasco, vice president of the National Grain Board; and engineer Alfredo Chevallier Boutell from the National Grain Board.

Corn Production: 9.5 Million Tons

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Aug 84 sec 2 p 2

[Text] The Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock announced the second estimate on corn production for the 1983-84 harvest made by the National Service for Rural Economy and Sociology. This second estimate totals 9.5 million tons. This is 500,000 tons or 5.6 percent more than the results of the past harvest. This estimate is also 180,000 tons or 1.9 percent more than the average for the last 5-year period which was 9.32 million tons. With respect to the last decade, it means an increase of about 694,500 tons or 7.9 percent more than the 8,805,500 tons which is the average for this period.

The main productive province is Buenos Aires with 4.13 million tons or 43.5 percent of the national total. Its production is 850,000 tons more than in the last harvest when it produced 3.28 million tons. This represents an increase of 25.9 percent. The two other provinces that historically follow in order of importance saw their production drop. The estimate for Cordoba is 2.54 million tons, a decrease of 110,000 tons from the last harvest which was 2.65 million tons. Santa Fe would have a total production of 1.27 million, a decrease of 360,000 tons or 22.1 percent of the previous total of 1.63 million tons. The province of Entre Rios also reduced its production. It will be 127,000 tons in this harvest, a decrease of 105,600 from the previous total of 232,000 tons--that is, a decrease of 45.4 percent.

The reductions in this harvest are attributed to less area planted and lack of moisture during the flowering stage which is fundamental for this species.

Prospects in marginal zones are very favorable, especially in San Luis where a production increase of 20 percent is expected. It should produce 640,000 tons. In La Pampa an increase of 50 percent is expected with production of 270,000 tons.

## Failure of Agricultural Campaign

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Aug 84 sec 2 p 3

[Text] Cordoba (NA)--The governor of the province, Eduardo Cesar Angeloz, publicly recognized that "the government campaign to achieve 1 million hectares planted with wheat has failed."

At a ceremony held in Despenaderos for Farmer's Day, the governor admitted: "The current minor harvest will be one of the lowest in the memory of the province."

With the objective of achieving 1 million hectares planted with wheat, the Bank of the Province of Cordoba distributed 400 million pesos in special credits to the producers while the YPF [Government Oil Deposits] facilitated the purchase of fuel for breaking new ground and planting.

Recent weather conditions were not good. This harvest will definitely be one of the lowest in the history of the province.

The governor announced that this campaign will have to be repeated for the major harvest in order to expand the agricultural-livestock frontiers and to achieve the goal that Cordoba be the top soybean producer in the country.

7717

CSO: 3348/579

## BRIEFS

PRO-BALBIN FACTION RENAMED--The Authentic Pro-Balbin National Line of the Radical Civic Union (UCR) has decided to reorganize in Buenos Aires Province and the rest of the country, with the name of National Union Movement. The announcement was made by the president of the Chamber of Deputies, Juan Carlos Pugliese, at the close of a meeting which that faction held in the capital delegation of the Buenos Aires Province committee. The Authentic Pro-Balbin Line stated in a declaration issued following the meeting that "the time has come to mark its presence in the internal life of the UCR with the fundamental purpose of helping strengthen the climate of partisan integration in which we are living," while respecting the pluralist nuances that make for our democratic and republican convictions. The statement also proposed "ratifying its intimate solidarity with the thought and action of Ricardo Balbin and being ready to accept and defend the union and assembly of all Argentini-ans." Likewise, the radical faction resolved "to reaffirm its total solidarity with national, provincial, municipal and departmental partisan authorities." Delegates from all districts of Buenos Aires attending the meeting named Dr Pugliese as reorganizing delegate. The conclave received a note of support from Minister of Interior Antonio Troccoli, who was unable to attend because he is traveling. [Text] [Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 2 Sep 84 p 13] 11,464

CSO: 3348/571

DLP HOLDS ANNUAL CONVENTION, RETAINS BARROW AT TOP

Taitt on Threat to Democracy

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 27 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] Mr. Branford Taitt, President of the Opposition Democratic Labour Party, has warned Barbadians that they must be vigilant about their freedoms, otherwise they might all be lost.

In an address to the party's 29th annual convention yesterday, he contended that these freedoms were gradually being eroded and the subtleness of the methods being used were preventing Barbadians from noting their own deterioration.

He said: "Barbadians are in the habit of saying that some of the terrible events which afflict our sister Caribbean nations can never happen here. This complacency abounds because we are unaware of what is taking place under our very noses."

He told his audience that they should properly read the signs since there were several events which may seem insignificant in themselves but when taken together presented an ominous picture.

Mr. Taitt referred to several pieces of legislation proposed or passed by the ruling Barbados Labour Party which he said seemed to be at variance with the section of the Barbados Constitution which dealt with "protection of fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual."

These included the Integrity in Public Life Act 1979, the Landlord and Tenants Registration Act 1979, The Professional Trade and Business Registration Act 1978, the Land Taxes (Amendment) Act 1984, the Liquor Licences (Amendment) Act 1983, the Education Act 1981, the Provisional Collection of Taxes (Amendment) Act 1984, the Agricultural Produce (Purchase and Disposal Act) and the Emergency Powers Act 1982.

He noted that already the judiciary had said "no" to sections of at least two of these Acts—the Education Act and the Landlord and Tenants Registration Act—which were tested in court.



Mr. Taitt warned the people that if they lived in fear, they would soon fear to live.

He said: "This country needs a new course, a new direction if we are to have a future that is safe and sound for our children and grandchildren. As we meet today our challenge is to provide that future."

He said that because of the erosion of freedoms in this country many Barbadians were planning to leave.

The events of the St. Peter by-election, he said, had brought into sharp focus questions of freedom and democracy in Barbados.

"Never before have we been so concerned about the fair ness of elections, the right to associate with persons of one's choice, the freedom of speech and the need for politicians to be reminded that they are servants and not masters," he said.

He referred to the system of polarisation operating in the country where if one did not agree with Government's actions and policies, one was immediately branded a member of the Opposition party.

He said: "Anyone who is remotely familiar with the political development of Jamaica can see that we are heading for difficult times if we continue this system of polarisation."

#### Taitt on Government Abuse

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 27 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] Barbados is in a sad and sorry state, Mr. Branford Taitt, outgoing president of the Democratic Labour Party has said.

He told party supporters at the party's annual convention yesterday that having completed the programme left behind by the DLP when it lost the election in 1976, the ruling Barbados Labour Party now had no ideas of its own.

He said that the "miracles" promised by the BLP in its 1976 and 1981 manifestos were still to materialise.

He said: "We were promised jobs, instead we got harassment, victimisation, unending lay-offs and short time. We were promised relief in taxation, instead we got more and more consumption duties, more and more taxes and a new one--levies.

"We were promised economic growth, instead we got economic collapse, a staggering national debt that now sees us at \$900 million, factory closures, a dying agriculture and empty hotels."

He submitted that the manufacturing sector was the one area of the economy with growth potential and he said this had been acknowledged by all and sundry.

"The last thing the manufacturing sector should be getting from any government at this time therefore is ministerial invective. But the manufacturers have been the objects of a veritable orgy of arrogance and abuse," he said.

With agriculture and tourism faltering, Mr. Taitt said, every effort must be made to ensure that there was progress in the manufacturing sector, or at the very least, that no ground be lost.

He said that in this respect, the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) should be taking special measures to help all existing but especially small local manufacturers to withstand the difficulties being faced as a result of the recent world economic recession; assisting local manufacturers to equip themselves to take full advantage of any opportunities available under the Caribbean Basin Initiative Plan; and promoting new foreign investment more vigorously.

He decried the IDC's performance over the past year and described it as "nothing short of embarrassing."

He said that during the year, six manufacturing enterprises originally assisted by the IDC went out of operation, resulting in the loss of between 140 and 150 jobs and between April 1983 and today about 600 jobs had been lost in the manufacturing sector (in IDC-factories). He claimed that about an additional 700 jobs were lost in the total industrial product.

Mr. Taitt suggested that the IDC should develop suitable project profiles to be presented to prospective investors with access to the required finance in an effort to make them aware of the profitable investment opportunities which exist.

He also suggested that instead of imposing rent increases, the Corporation should provide higher rent subsidies, even if temporarily.

He condemned the spending of more than \$10 million by the Corporation on a number of ventures including a Far East tour which Mr. Taitt said has produced no visible results; a strategy study by a group of US consultants, the construction of a new headquarters, the development of an "empty estate" at St. Peter and the development of the furniture complex at Spring Garden.

#### Barrow's Reelection

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 27 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] Mr. Errol Barrow, former Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition Democratic Labour Party, will lead that party into the 1986 general elections.

Mr. Barrow was elected as party president yesterday when the DLP held its 29th annual convention at its headquarters, The Auditorium, George Street, Belleville, St. Michael.

He received 199 votes, 45 more than his rival Mr. Branford Taitt who at the time of the election held the post of party president. Mr. Taitt polled 154 votes.

A new executive council to serve the 1984 to 1985 year was also elected but the names of the new officers were not immediately available.

#### Criticism of IDC

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 27 Aug 84 p 24

[Text] MR. BRANFORD TAITT has charged that the Industrial Development Corporation's [IDC's] recent performance over the past year has been nothing short of embarrassing.

He said yesterday that during the fiscal year 1983-84 no less than six manufacturing enterprises originally assisted by the IDC, went out of operation, resulting in the loss of between 140 to 150 jobs.

Since March this year, Mr Taitt said, the job loss situation had worsened with long established companies like Koves going out of business.

"Between April 1983 and today, about 600 jobs have been lost in the manufacturing sector," Mr. Taitt said.

He said this occurred against the background of enormous sums of money being "wildly and foolishly" spent within the last two years.

The former minister of trade and industry under the DLP Government claimed that a Far East tour with the minister of trade as part of the touring party produced absolutely no visible results, but cost the people of Barbados at least \$250 000.

Mr. Taitt also claimed that a strategy study by a group of United States consultants cost over \$400 000; the construction of a new headquarters building costing about \$3 million used unnecessary imports of cement panels; there was the development of an empty estate at St. Peter for over \$2 million, and the development of a so-called furniture complex at Spring Garden, St. Michael had cost, to date, over \$5 million.

Said Mr. Taitt: "Clearly, over \$10 million, almost all of which went out of the country, have been spent to produce nothing--indeed to lose jobs."

## Barrow on Leadership Issue

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 28 Aug 84 p 1

[Article by Neville Martindale]

[Text] NEWLY-ELECTED president of the Democratic Labour Party [DLP], Mr Errol Barrow, said yesterday that he hoped all the talk about leadership problems in the party would now be put to rest.

Mr. Barrow, who is also Leader of the Opposition in the House of Assembly, said in an exclusive interview at his Public Buildings Office: "I am now both the political leader and the president of the party."

He defeated Mr. Branford Taitt when elections were held for the post of president at the 29th annual conference of the party on Sunday. Mr. Barrow last held the post in 1980 before Mr. Taitt took over.

Speaking about the much talked about leadership problem, Mr. Barrow said he had dealt with the matter before, but he added: "People believe what they want to believe, particularly people who are not supporters of the DLP."

The first thing, he said, was to win a general election by getting the majority of seats.

"After you gain the majority of seats, according to our Constitution, the persons who are elected, decide who they want to lead them. In 1961 when the Dems won the election, we did not have any leadership problem," Mr. Barrow said.

But he added: "Leadership is not the kind of thing that one outgoing leader can bestow on another person, no matter one's personal inclination."

Mr. Barrow also spoke about his new plans for the DLP. "I am going to propose that we appoint a chairman of the executive council of the party. Normally, the president of the party presides over executive council meetings."

Earlier this year, he said, the St. John branch of the party proposed that parliamentary members should not be involved in the administration of the party. That resolution, he added, came to the annual conference from the St. James South branch of the party.

Mr. Barrow explained that the resolution had not been debated because it was felt that it might be better to arrive at the arrangement by agreement among the parliamentary members of the party, so that in future, sitting members of Parliament would not be involved in the party's administration.

Elaborating, Mr. Barrow said: "So, what I am proposing is that the president, although he is titular administrative head of the party, that work should be carried out by a chairman, who would be appointed from amongst the members of the executive council."



Said Mr. Barrow: "I think the big mistake made in the DLP was when we changed the nomenclature of the person, who was managing the administration, from chairman of the executive council, to president of the party.

"And this conjured up all kinds of visions, glory, and status among people who did not understand the distinctive functions which have to be performed by the parliamentary group and by the party executive," Mr. Barrow said.

He also plans to insist, in order to increase dialogue between parliamentarians and constituencies, that the parliamentarians meet with the general council of the party, of which they are members, at least once every eight weeks.

Constituency branches and the general council should meet at least every three months, Mr. Barrow explained. But he wants to step up the activities of the general council because all the branches are represented on that body. Hardly more than two or three branches are represented on the executive council.

Apart from the annual conference, Mr. Barrow said, the general council was really the supreme authority in the party.

#### General Council Selections

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 28 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] Of the 74 candidates nominated for election to the general council of the Democratic Labour Party [DLP] last Sunday, six were selected.

They are: Mr. J. C. King, Mrs. Cora Cumberbatch, Mr. Astor Watts, Mrs. Margaret Knight, Mr. Mohammed Nassar, and Mr. Mark Todd.

Officers elected were: Mr. Errol Barrow, president; Mr. Cameron Tudor, second vice-president; Mr. John Daniel, third vice-president; Mr. Pedro Welch, general secretary (unopposed); Mr. Vallan Franklin, assistant general secretary, and Mr. Frank DaSilva, treasurer (unopposed).

#### Taitt on Questionable Legislation

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 28 Aug 84 pp 10-11

[Text] OUTGOING president of the Democratic Labour Party [DLP], Mr. Branford Taitt, told delegates at the 29th annual conference Sunday at the George Street Auditorium, that in recent years there had been a spate of legislation passed or proposed, which seems to be at variance with Section II of the Constitution.

He said a few examples should suffice:

Integrity in Public Life Act: "This was perhaps the opening salvo on the basic human freedoms enshrined in our constitution."

"The bill was introduced under the guise of "An Act to make provision for the avoidance of conflicts of interest by persons engaged in governing, guiding or administering the public affairs of Barbados and to establish a body to monitor the assets of persons in public life.

"The proposed bill got raving reviews from the print media. The Government was fulfilling a manifesto promise and, following the alleged corruption entertained by the previous administration, was welcomed by all and sundry."

The Landlord and Tenants Registration Act: "In 1979 this was enacted to allow a tenant to withhold rent from a landlord if the subject property had not been registered under the legislation.

"Sections of this law have subsequently been tested in the courts. The court has ruled that any legislation which seeks to deprive a person from the benefits of property without compensation is unconstitutional."

"The Professional Trade and Business Registration Act 1978, seeks to allow a client to refuse payment for services if the provider of such services is not registered under the act. This law has not yet been tested in the courts.

"The Land Taxes (Amendment) Act 1984, allows the Government to impose a fine on any owner of agricultural land who does not produce goods of a given minimum value. It does not matter that the landowner may make a loss in trying to cultivate the land and attain the minimum value. You could become a criminal for refusing to incur losses."

"The Liquor Licences (Amendment) Act 1983, gives Government the power to refuse liquor licences to persons if the property from which they operate is the subject of outstanding land taxes. During the Senate debate on the bill, it was suggested that it was unfair to penalise one person for the default of another in that the operator of the property may not be the owner, and the burden of the land tax normally falls on the owner.

"The Education Act 1981 was hailed as the best thing that had ever been done to our education system. A short three years later, it has been tested in our courts and the learned judge has said that sections of it will fall to the ground as being contrary to the constitution.

"The Provisional Collection of Taxes (Amendment) Act 1984 was described by one commentator as the 'Gunpowder Plot'. The DLP was vocal and articulate in objecting to it. One independent senator said that "it was carrying things a bit too far'."

The Emergency Powers Act 1982: "This proposed law contained only two sections in eight pages. Yet it was the most devastating piece of legislation ever presented to Parliament."

CSO: 3298/1115,

NEW ENVOY FROM ARGENTINA STRESSES COOPERATION

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 30 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] In what could be considered a 16th anniversary occasion, Argentina has said it wants to strengthen ties with Barbados and other Caribbean nations, increase mutual understanding and work towards regional unity.

Argentine Ambassador Designate to Barbados Carlos Muniz put his country's case for better relations with the region shortly after presenting his letters of credence to Barbados' Governor-General Sir Hugh Springer.

"We believe that active co-operation may provide many answers to queries of our countries that suffer in varying degrees from the international economic crisis," Mr. Muniz said.

"My country is willing to co-operate and echo its voice around the world hence our participation at the United Nations (UN), the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the movement of Non-Aligned countries, of which Barbados is also a member."

He said Argentina was convinced that in today's independent world, it was imperative for all nations "on our continent to join efforts in order to tackle their common problems."

Argentina and Barbados established relations on August 16, 1968, but the 16th anniversary of that occasion has found both countries struggling to free themselves of the world economic recession.

For its part Barbados is looking to find markets outside of its more traditional Caribbean sub-regional partners necessitating more trade with Argentina and working on a lasting friendship.

The depressed state of regional and Latin American economies has been attributed to the policies of the industrialised countries which themselves are also in a tailspin.

They have said that the prices of their commodities, sugar, coffee and other agricultural products, have fallen while the imports of capital goods from the industrialised countries soared in recent years.

ADAMS ANNOUNCES NEW DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT

FL071850 Bridgetown CANA in English 1612 GMT 7 Sep 84

[By Hallam Hope]

[Text] Bridgetown, 7 Sep (CANA)--Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams today said Caribbean governments needed to pay urgent attention to oil slicks and spills before a major catastrophe took place.

Adams was giving the feature address at the opening of the 18th annual general meeting of the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA), a non-governmental organization of which 16 governments in the region are members.

"The problem of oil slicks and spills is one that is particularly crucial to Caribbean fishing and tourism industries, and one that needs the urgent attention and commitment of all member states before a major catastrophe occurs," he said.

The prime minister announced government was establishing, within its Health Ministry, a Department of the Environment responsible for public health aspects of the environment and to monitor "physical developments" that can affect the environment.

"I am confident that the Caribbean region as a whole will inevitably be embarking on new areas of industrialisation and economic development in the not too distant future, which will have a heavy impact on our environment," he said.

"These new economic initiatives will in many ways test the fabric of the Caribbean Conservation Association," the prime minister said.

"The new department of the environment, in cooperation with the Coastguard of the Barbados Defense Force, is the agency that will deal with these problems (oil slicks and spills) in the waters around our island extending out to the limits of our 200 mile economic zone," Adams said.

He said it was clear that in the area of environmental protection the Caribbean was extremely fortunate that the CCA had managed to develop a high level of expertise in the areas of immediate concern to the region.



Adams said a particularly bothersome problem to Barbados was beach erosion and government was currently studying recommendations contained in a survey of coastal erosion financed mainly by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) at a cost of \$1 million (1 Bdos dollar: 50 cents U.S.).

Much of this erosion was a result of pollution on land, including pollution by industrial waste and agricultural chemicals, polluted ground water making its way to the beaches and the effects of sewerage discharges into the ocean, he added.

CSO: 3298/1117

# IDC CHIEF REPLIES TO TAITT: FISCAL 1983-84 BEST YEAR YET

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 28 Aug 84 p 20

[Text]

AS far as job creation is concerned, the fiscal year April, 1983, to March, 1984, was the third most successful in the history of the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation.

This was stated yesterday in a statement by Mr. Fred Collop, chairman of the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), in response to comments made at the Democratic Labour Party's (DLP) annual conference, by Mr. Branford Taitt, with respect to IDC's recent performance.

The statement continued: "In IDC-assisted enterprises, 1 420 new jobs were created as against 188 lost, leaving a net addition of 1 232 new jobs.

"The 1 420 new jobs were created in eighteen (18) new companies contributing 315 jobs and 1 105 jobs through expansions in existing factories, mainly in the electronics and data processing sub-sectors, and notably at Intel, Tansitor, Caribbean Data Services and Corcom.

"The new companies were mainly local companies producing such diverse products as PVC pressure pipes, musicassettes, chemicals, PVC windows, liquified petroleum cylinders, yogurt, oil filters, garments, wood laminates and decorative panelling.

"The 188 job losses were

sustained in the following six (6) companies:

Brown and Bishop	6
Clairex	25
Mapp's Garment Factory	88
Sewing Contractors Ltd.	21
Gypsy International	46
Eugene & Marks	2

"In 1983/84 job gains were recorded in the following manufacturing sub-sectors:—

Textiles/Paper/Leather	108
Paper products	111
Chemicals	12
Plastics	41
Electronics	606
Data processing	363
Other manufacturing	60
Minerals (ore)	7

"Job losses were recorded as follows:—

Food and beverages	6
Wooden furniture	17
Metal furniture	38
Handicraft	17

"New investment in manufacturing during 1983/84 amounted to Bds\$17 million. \$12.4 million investment was created through new enterprises and \$4.6 million through expansions. The IDC's Quarterly Employment Survey for April to June 1984 shows a marginal net loss of 17 jobs for that particular period.

"It is totally inaccurate and untrue to say that Koves Company Limited has gone out of business.

"Mr. Taitt also made reference to the cost of various projects undertaken by the corporation and it is therefore necessary to set the record

straight.

"1. The contract price for the IDC's headquarters now being built at Pelican Industrial Park inclusive of professional fees is \$2.12 million. The total floor area is 16 649 sq. ft. representing a construction cost of \$127 per sq. ft. Mr. Taitt's figure was \$3 million.

"2. The IDC has developed its 12-acre Northern Industrial Park at a cost of \$1.38 per sq. ft. inclusive of land, roads, water and electricity services. This represents a total expenditure of \$725 775 and not a sum in excess of \$2 million as alleged by Mr. Taitt.

"3. The Spring Garden Industrial Park presently includes a wood-drying kiln and factories under construction for U & I Limited and Hampden's Furniture Limited, as well as other common service buildings. When these are all completed the total cost of the project including the full infrastructural development for the total park will not exceed \$3.6 million. Mr. Taitt suggested that over \$5 million has already been spent.

"The IDC finds it necessary to present this correction of the mis-information given by Mr. Taitt to the DLP convention. It believes that as a national organisation seeking to the best of its ability to carry out its mandate on behalf of the people of Barbados, it should be judged on its record based on fact," the statement ended.

CSO: 3298/1116

OPPOSITION HITS GOVERNMENT POLICY ON PROPERTY TAXES

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 26 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] Opposition spokesman on Finance, Dr. Richie Haynes, views as "misleading" an article in yesterday's Barbados Advocate under the Headline "Lower land tax rates likely after new valuation--Adams."

Dr. Haynes said that Prime Minister Tom Adams presented to Parliament Estimates for 1984-1985 which clearly indicated that the revised land tax yield for income year 1983-1984 was \$20 million and the estimates from income year 1984-1985 was \$26 million.

Addition

"In other words, Mr. Adams intends to obtain an additional \$6 million in land tax beginning income year 1984-1985," Dr. Haynes said.

He added that the first step in this exercise has been to increase the land valuations and the public must file their objections and not take seriously any argument that the land valuations currently being used might form the basis for fixing prices for land acquisition.

"In the first instance, very few properties are acquired by Government in any given year and secondly, it would be quite unconstitutional for the Government to amend the Land Acquisition Act to make its own evaluation the price for any acquisition of property," Dr. Haynes said.

Dr. Haynes urged that Mr. Adams' statement should be read carefully since any such approach could only be the basis for negotiation and people should not be invited to have their evaluations increased on the remote chance that Government might acquire their property.

Increase

Dr. Haynes also said that in his view it was misleading since when the higher valuations were effected any reduction in the rates of land tax would be so structured that the net result would be an increased yield of \$26 million rather than \$20 million.

"The public must guard against statements of this nature and proceed immediately to object to all unreasonable valuations and this would give considerable support to the Democratic Labour Party's efforts in Parliament to secure a substantial reduction in the rates of land tax, so that the yield would not be in excess of \$20 million, a figure which represents an almost 400 per cent increase in the land tax yield for income year 1975-1976 when these taxes were largely deductible."

CSO: 3298/1118



# ARSON PROBED IN TWO BRIDGETOWN COMMERCIAL FIRES

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 15 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] Losses are expected to climb well over the \$1 million mark in a fire which gutted a large business section of Marhill Street, City just after midnight yesterday. Arson is suspected and some five businesses have been affected.

A large furniture company, a printery, an amusement arcade, bar and restaurant, an insurance company and an optical company have been hit by fire.

Five fire tenders and 21 officers led by Chief Fire Officer George Gittens responded to the call at 12.24 a.m. yesterday.

The fire occurred less than 24 hours after a blaze had extensively damaged a Baxters Road supermarket in the early hours of Monday.

In the Marhill Street fire, Caribbean Furnishing House, Torch Printery and Pot-O-Gold arcade, restaurant and bar were gutted, while the Caribbean Insurance Company Limited and Harcourt Carter Optical Company were extensively damaged.

Some 30 people who worked with the companies are expected to be temporarily unemployed.

All the contents of Caribbean Furnishing House, Pot-O-Gold arcade, bar and restaurant and Torch Printery were destroyed while some contents in the other damaged buildings were also destroyed by the blaze.

According to firemen, the fire is believed to have started in the kitchen at the back of the Pot-O-Gold restaurant.

The companies gutted or damaged occupied four buildings on the right side of Marhill Street from the Bridge Street junction. The entire street was blocked off to vehicular traffic yesterday causing some traffic pile-ups on Upper Broad Street as workmen of the Barbados Light and Power Company (BL and P), set about repairing burnt power lines that caused a power cut in the entire area.

The fire also affected the telephone systems in the area and up to late yesterday, many of the businesses, including the General Post Office were without telephone communication.

Policemen and firemen were seen searching the remains of the burnt out buildings for clues yesterday to assist in their investigations. A number of insurance Company agents were also at the scene.

Chief Fire Officer George Gittens did not rule out arson as the cause. Police sources also said that they had not ruled out arson, but noted that it was too early to give any details.

Mr. Gittens expressed great concern over the fire noting that it had occurred less than 24 hours after a similar one in the City. He suggested that if a similar blaze was reported soon: "...it could indicate some trend."

Meanwhile, owners and directors of the companies hit by the fire are still counting their losses and held meetings with police and their insurance agents.

CSO: 3298/1118

SUGAR INDEBTEDNESS MAY EXCEED \$31 MILLION

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 18 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] Commercial bank credit to the local sugar industry stood at more than \$31 million up to the end of May this year, according to the latest Central Bank publication.

However, it is believed that this is not the true state of the indebtedness of the industry since this sector has benefitted from sources of finance other than the commercial banks.

Of the more than \$31 million outstanding to the commercial banks, the bulk of this is believed to be owed by plantations.

The Economic and Financial Statistics for July indicated that credit for the processing of sugar and molasses up to May stood at just over \$5.5 million.

The local sugar industry had been experiencing difficulties and was the recipient of Government assistance for two straight years.

A third package might be offered to the industry which in 1984 had its best year since 1980.

The poor state of the industry was reflected in the performance of plantations some of which implemented a two-day work week, and others were forced to lay off staff, to trim their operating budgets.

The lay-offs brought a sharp reaction from the Barbados Workers Union (BWU) the bargaining body for sugar workers.

The debts to the industry account for more than half of commercial bank credit to agriculture up to the end of May.

In giving a breakdown the Central Bank's document revealed that \$7.4 million was outstanding to livestock; \$1.6 million to foodcrops; and \$1.5 million for other agricultural activities.

CSO: 3298/1118

## ARAWAK CEMENT PLANT STARTED IN MAY SCORING SUCCESSES

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 29 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] The Awarak Cement Company in St. Lucy has sold more than 11 000 tonnes of cement since the plant started operations in May this year.

Arawak's General Manager Mr. Derek Betty told a news conference yesterday that to date more than 6 000 tonnes of cement and clinker had been exported. He pointed out that the local market accounted for between 20 per cent to 25 per cent of Arawak's sales.

Shipments and repeat orders have already been made to St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Grenada, Montserrat, Antigua, and Trinidad. A shipment will be leaving the island shortly for Tobago.

Mr. Betty said Arawak was currently engaged in intensive export marketing and it was expected to sthip to other CARICOM countries very shortly.

The company is also looking at markets in the United States, Peru, Venezuela, Suriname and Guyana. Mr. Betty said while noting that Arawak was equipped to handle bulk deliveries as well as bags.

"The U.S. and other large markets will likely require bulk deliveries and Arawak is presently negotiating with several U.S. companies as well as other interested parties to supply bulk cement and clinker," he said.

"The feedback from local consumers is that Arawak's cement is just as good and in come cases better than the cement previously imported," the Arawak official said.

The plant is jointly owned by the Government of Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago and cost \$200 million to build. It has a capacity to produce 1 000 tons per day or 315 tons annually.

The plant currently employs 175 persons and this number will be increased to about 200 by year end.

Approximately 94 per cent of the raw materials used in the manufacture of cement is indigenous. There is a limestone quarry adjacent to the plant



while the shale quarry is located in Greenland, St. Andrew. Other raw materials iron ore and gypsum are imported while bunker "C" oil is also imported.

Mr. Betty said Arawak's cement and clinker recently underwent stringent tests by several independent agencies, and had passed all in addition to having received test certificates certifying the quality of its cement.

CSO: 3298/118

## GOVERNMENT TO STUDY POPULATION, REVIEW LAWS AFFECTING GROWTH

### Task Force Plans

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 22 Aug 84 p 1

[Text]

THE Barbados Government has embarked on a programme to determine the level of population the country can support.

To this end, a special National Population Task Force (NPTF) is being set up under the aegis of the Ministry of Health.

This was disclosed yesterday in an exclusive interview with the Minister of Health, Senator O'Brien Trotman and Chief Project Officer in that ministry, Mr. Cortez Nurse.

Mr. Nurse, who will be deputy chairman of the task force, said: "The NPTF is going to look at not just family planning, but the total implications of population and its impact on the socio-economic development of the country.

"As a result, the task force will be looking at the levels of population that the country can afford in terms of the capabilities of education, employment, projections for housing, road utilisation and the whole social development impact of the country."

He continued: "We will therefore have a serious look at the population growth, and the sustaining of various levels of growth. We will be ensuring, not only the containment of population growth, but that it grows at a rate that it will sustain the future older population."

In an effort to give maximum efficiency to the task force, the members have been selected from a number of Government agencies, as well as the private sector.

The chairman will be Dr. Beverly Miller, senior medical officer (health) other members will be: the Director of Finance and Planning, or his nominee; the Director of Statistics or his nominee; the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Labour, or his nominee; the executive director of the Barbados Family Planning Association; the director of the Institute of Social and Economic Research, UWI; a medical officer of health; the director of the Women's Bureau; and the executive director of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce, or his nominee.

The body will also have the power to co-opt representatives from the private and public sectors to participate in the population policy development.

## Review of Laws

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 22 Aug 84 p 1

[Text]

THE review of laws, policies and regulations, which affect population growth, has been listed among the terms of reference of the National Population Task Force (NPTF) which is being set up.

According to Minister of Health, Senator O'Brien Trotman, the laws to be reviewed should include those which affect fertility, migration,

citizenship and mortality, directly and indirectly.

The NPTF will also examine past and present demographic trends and their impact on the social and economic development of the country, and will review and assess the country's past and present practices of population control, particularly family planning practices, and "their impact on

population growth, health (particularly the health of mothers and children), adolescent fertility with a view towards their modification".

It will also have to:

Determine appropriate population size which will be compatible with the social and economic development prospects over the next 25 years, with the view towards

establishing clear goals in the areas of health (life expectancy), family size and migration.

Examine the budgetary allocation of family planning services from both the Government and international sources, taking into account the number of fertile women in the population age group of 15-49 years.

CSO: 3298/1118

WORKERS' UNION MEETS; FOCUS ON UNEMPLOYMENT, IMF

New Layoffs

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 15 Aug 84 p 1

[Text]

When the buzzer went off to stop work at Forbes Craft Rattan Specialties Limited at Newton Industrial Park yesterday, some 40 production workers put down their tools and walked slowly out the door.

Unlike many other workers across the island who would return to work today, these workers will not do so. They have been laid-off indefinitely.

Yesterday they adhered to the work termination notices they had received last Tuesday from the company, which manufactures rattan furniture.

According to the company's managing Director, Mr. Basil Forbes, he is "trying his best to keep the doors (to his company) partially open.

He said that the lay offs came in light of the company's inability to find local as well as CARICOM markets for its products, a problem he blames on the present trade difficulties with Trinidad and the illegal importation of products into Barbados.

Walcott on Jobs Issue

Bridgetown THE WEEKEND NATION in English 24-25 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] THE burning issue of unemployment in Barbados will be debated tomorrow by 298 delegates expected to attend the Barbados Workers' Union's [BWU's] 43rd Annual Delegates Conference.

It comes off at the union's new renovated and historic headquarters, Solidarity House, at Harmony Hall, St. Michael.

The single resolution down for the conference deals with unemployment. The resolution calls upon the Government and the private sector to desist from the hasty practice of making workers redundant and institute measures to provide employment opportunities within the community.

General Secretary of the BWU, Mr. Frank Walcott, speaking to the media yesterday about the question of unemployment, said: "It has very serious

implications, and that is why we have taken it up very seriously. And we are going to deal with it as an urgent matter."

He added: "Unemployment on the whole is an urgent matter for all of us. I believe people understand what unemployment means when it happens to them. They realize what it is to wake up without any real sustenance, and that is the net result of unemployment."

That was what they had to discuss, Mr. Walcott said.

He also referred to some of the areas of unemployment, like the sugar industry and the manufacturing sector.

The BWU general secretary spoke, too, about difficulties in concluding negotiations with the Government on behalf of public workers, including teachers and policemen, that were represented by his union; and also with the Port Authority.

About the public workers negotiations, Mr. Walcott said that this was one of the matters that the union had reported to be an unresolved issue.

He added: "It will only come to a head, or crisis, when there is a dislocation...."

Asked the reason for the state of negotiations, Mr. Walcott said: "The Government has not finished the negotiations, and we are not satisfied with the method of negotiating these matters."

He further said: "I think it is take it or leave it. But the days of take it or leave it are over, and you have to negotiate matters in a civilised and proper form."

Mr. Walcott said the union had been writing the Chief Establishments Officer about the negotiations and other matters, and the response, "is not anything we can say we have received to show what is going to be Government's attitude."

He warned: "There is a way of making the Government, or any employer, reply."

#### Government Note on Wage Legislation

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 26 Aug 84 p 1

[Article by Avonda Scott]

[Text] At least one union representing public workers has so far been served notice by Government of its intention to enforce its salaries offer through legislation.

Government has informed the Barbados Workers' Union (BWU) in writing that it would be introducing the matter in Parliament when it resumes.



This would mark the fifth consecutive occasion of salaries being legislated without an agreement being reached at the bargaining table.

BWU General Secretary, Mr. Frank Walcott, views it as "a severe shock and bitter disappointment to the thousands of Government employees especially those in the lower segments of the service."

And he has repudiated what he described as "this industrial insult."

Mr. Walcott said that industrial negotiations in the public service have often been fraught with long delays but in recent times matters have gone worse.

He said his union would hate to think that it was a hangover from the old colonial days when it was felt that workers in the public service "were there to receive orders and carry out instructions.

"It could only stem from a very lazy mind or one that borders on the fringe of lunacy to believe that it is reasonable to offer 15 000 people working for salaries in the range that we have in the public service in Barbados, a blanket proposal such as this and satisfy those who earn their living at the lowest range of the scale.

"We know that Government's decision is bound to engender bitter resentment in the minds of thousands of public sector workers and very little can be done to soothe this cruel blow that has been inflicted," the BWU General Secretary said.

Government's offer of 15 percent in the first year, which includes the 2-1/2 interim allowance promised civil servants, and five percent in the second year, has been accepted by the National Union of Public Workers, representing some 6 500 people in the civil service.

That union's membership was said to be split over this early acceptance of Government's offer. An NUPW official admitted that this was so.

Teachers unions have already stoutly rejected the offer.

Representatives of the Barbados Secondary Teachers' Union (BSTU) and the Barbados Union of Teachers (BUT) said yesterday they had not received the letter from Government.

President of the BSTU, Mr. Keith Alleyne, made it clear however, that his union would be rejecting any legislation of salaries without agreement being reached.

He said when and if the letter is received his executive would meet and decide on what possible action to take.

That union wrote the Prime Minister in March seeking a meeting and according to Mr. Alleyne the only response was acknowledgement of receipt of that letter.

"We had hoped that there would have been some agreement," Mr. Alleyne said yesterday.

President of the BUT, Mr. Victor Hutchinson, said his union had not received a letter from Government up to Friday afternoon but they had a meeting with the Chief Establishments Officer set for Friday.

He said this meeting is expected to cover the "monetary aspects" of their proposals.

The BUT's executive is also to meet on Tuesday night.

#### Union Rejection

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 26 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] Delegates at the Barbados Workers' Union annual conference have rejected Government's latest attempt at legislating salaries without an agreement being reached at the bargaining table.

Government has informed the BWU that it will be seeking the necessary legislative instruments from Parliament when it resumes.

BWU General Secretary, Mr. Frank Walcott said this was a severe shock and bitter disappointment to the thousands of Government employees.

#### Archer Message

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 26 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] The growing problem of unemployment in this country was the main issue debated when the Barbados Workers' Union held its 43rd annual delegates conference yesterday.

In his invocation at the opening of the event, Union Chaplain, Canon Harold tudor referred to unemployment as a cancer eating away at the fabric of our society.

Outgoing President, Mr. Lemuel Daniel, and Mr. Leonard Archer, President of the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) also made comments on this burning issue.

Mr. Daniel said one of the problems facing BWU members and indeed all workers was the escalating reality of job loss.

He said it will take a combined effort on the part of all sectors of the community to find a solution to the growing level of unemployment.

Mr. Ascher, who brought greetings on behalf of his organisation, said: "All over the world workers are facing the bleak prospect of losing their livelihood because of rising levels of unemployment.

"It is fitting that the subject of job protection, security and creation is the main subject of today's meeting. I hope that you can find a solution to this perplexing problem for the people of Barbados," Mr. Archer said.

It said that unemployment could lead to social discontent and social dislocation and called on Government and the private sector to desist from the hasty practice of making workers redundant and institute measure to provide employment opportunities within the community.

The conference also heard greetings from Mr. Robin Whitehouse of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, which represents 83 million workers in 95 countries and Mr. Mike Donavan, Director of the Caribbean arm of the American Institute of Free Labour Development.

#### New President

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 26 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] The new president of the Barbados Workers' Union is Mr. David Giles.

Mr. Giles, the controversial figure in the January 1981 strike at the Barbados Telephone Company, was elected at the BWU's 43rd annual conference yesterday to succeed Mr. Lemuel Daniel, who did not seek re-election. He received 142 votes.

A technician at the Telephone Company, he has been president of that division of the BWU for many years.

He served as a vice president of the union before being elected to the top post.

The other candidates running for the office of president were Mr. Gordon "Ricky" Parris of the Berger Paints Division who got 21 votes and Mr. Joseph Boyce of the Court Process Office 32 votes.

The conference paid tribute to Mr. Daniel, who served as BWU president for five years.

Mr. Daniel was one of the people made redundant when Cable and Wireless localised its operations in Barbados in April this year.

He had served for many years as secretary of the Cable and Wireless Division and was for 11 years a member of the BWU's executive council before his election to president in 1979.

## ADVOCATE on Layoffs

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 26 Aug 84 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text] AS MORE and more Barbadians find it difficult to hold on to their jobs, we run the danger of being bogged down by semantics that do nothing to face the reality but only add to the confusion. The available figure for the percentage of unemployed up to the end of the first quarter of the year has been given as 15.7 percent. Since then there have been no dramatic increases, but the tricles continue of lay-offs or job losses as firms go out of business, and in the end they all add up.

The June publication of the Economic Review of the Central Bank of Barbados (Vol. XI No. 1--June 1984) in an overview of the economy of Barbados said in dealing with the employment situation, "...Heavy job losses in the last twelve months, particularly in manufacturing and the service sectors, lifted unemployment to its highest first quarter level since 1976..." The report went on to note that at the same time "the inflation rate continued to decline.

The first quarter report covered the months of January, February and March of this year. Since then the drop in employment has steadily made itself felt. The next publication of the Central Bank's Economic Review will be published in September and it is not likely that it will record any significant change in the employment situation.

In the manufacturing sector, losses in the Trinidad and Tobago market has been given as the main cause of the drop in exports for a number of local manufacturers. This trend has repeated itself as details of another local firm facing possible closure have emerged.

The firm, W. B. Hutchinson and Company Limited, manufactures plastic products and depends heavily on its export market for the bulk of its business. It is a pattern that is common to many of our local manufacturing enterprises.

According to a spokesman for the firm, which at one time employed 126 people, the firm sells an estimated 25 per cent of its goods on the local market and this was described as just enough to keep the firm's doors open. It is the overseas sales that bring in the most money. But the firm has lost sales in Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname, along with Trinidad, where it did 65 per cent of its business.

What is to be noted is that the firm is heavily financed with funds from Trinidad sources, but this has not made it any easier for it to make sales in the Trinidad market. The firm has just not been able to obtain the required licences, as required, to trade in Trinidad.

As we have said, it is a familiar story. It is not being made any easier as joblessness is being experienced in other Caricom countries as well. Nor is that any great consolation for us in Barbados.

What we have to face as a fact is that as Barbadians find themselves out of work, for one reason or another, this unemployment means a diminishing of people's spending power. If enough people have less or nothing to spend this leads to a drop in sales on the local market and can trigger more joblessness.

It is a vicious circle. The question that is still unanswered but which adds to the state of anxiety is how long the pattern of unemployment will continue to deepen? Turning this tide is the challenge ahead.

#### New BWU Council

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 27 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] The 43rd Annual Delegates' Conference of the Barbados Workers' Union Saturday elected new members to serve on the BWU's Executive Council.

David Giles, the central figure in the industrial dispute at the Telephone Company in 1981, was given an overwhelming vote of confidence being elected president general, gaining 142 of the 296 votes cast. He succeeded Lemuel Daniel. Daniel did not seek re-election.

The three vice presidents are Keith Reid, Joseph Boyce and Alwyn Tull, all of the Council of Government Workers.

Four new members will sit on the Council. They are: Althea Best (Opelika Division), Erskine Durant (Barbados External Telecommunications Division), and Victor Evelyn and Byron Jackman (Transport Board Division).

They will join Anthony Prince, Deighton King and Everton Bend, Hugh Arthur, DeVere Brewster, Edwin Carew, Courtney Carrington, Antonio Downes, Maurice Hall, Frank Howard, Delores Hunte, Ulric Lynch, Gordon Parris and Dorothy Williams.

The BWU Treasurer Denis Gibbs was nominated unopposed.

Dr. Keith Hunte, Principal of the Cave Hill Campus delivered the feature address and opened the Conference which was attended by 298 delegates and held at Solidarity House, Harmony Hall.

BWU General Secretary, Frank Walcott, congratulated the new Executive Council and pledged his cooperation.

Mr Walcott also showered praise on the outgoing BWU President General Lemuel Daniel and presented him with a "parting gift." He has been a member of the BWU since 1965 and president general from 1969-1984.

A gift was also presented to Livingstone Morris, a former President of the Commission Agents Division of the Union. Morris led the commission and provision



agents' workers in the strike of 1972. The Union described Morris' service to the organisation as "tremendous."

### Government Policy on Teachers

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 28 Aug 84 p 1

[Text]

YET another public service union in Barbados has received notice from the Establishments Division indicating Government's intention to legislate salaries.

The Barbados Secondary Teachers Union (BSTU) said in a release yesterday that it had received a letter stating Government's intention to "implement the salary offer of an increase in the first year on the 1982 salaries and a further five percent in the second year of the agreement".

The union said it has had only one meeting with Government to negotiate salary increases and at that meeting it was given Government's final offer. Since then two letters have been sent to Prime Minister Tom Adams requesting a meeting, but there had been no response.

"The BSTU regards

Government's approach to the entire process of collective bargaining as deplorable and yet another legislating of salaries without any real attempt on Government's part at reaching agreement is a further erosion of the entire process of collective bargaining. The BSTU considers that Government has treated all trade unions with utter contempt," the release stated.

The union expects to meet with its attorneys shortly, and immediately after will hold a general meeting to discuss the situation with its members.

Last weekend the Barbados Workers Union (BWU) disclosed that it had received notice of Government's intention to legislate salaries. The National Union of Public Workers (NUPW) is the only union to have accepted the Government offer.

### Archer Warning on IMF

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 28 Aug 84 p 20

[Text]

THE policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and their effect on trade unions will be the most important topic to which trade unions will have to address themselves in the next few years.

So said president of the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL), Mr. Leonard Archer, as he spoke at the opening of a seminar dealing with the IMF and trade unions at the Barbados Workers Union (BWU) Labour College, Mangrove, St. Philip, yesterday.

Mr. Archer said the topic would be of extreme importance to trade unions in the Caribbean since the conditions usually attached to IMF assistance will have far-reaching consequences on the functions of trade unionists, as well as on the workers.

He said that this IMF programme "... is more like giving small doses of poison to an already sick patient, than a cure for the patient's ills.

Said Mr. Archer: "We in the Caribbean have already experienced the cure from the IMF remedy. In Jamaica, the currency has been devalued, resulting in higher prices for food, manufactured goods and transportation, and the loss of thousands of jobs in the public sector.

"In the Dominican Republic, the cure has resulted in price increases in practically everything, and the deaths of some 60 persons and injuries to over 400 more."

## Walcott on IMF

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 29 Aug 84 p 9

[Text]

ALTHOUGH Barbados has terminated its agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the climate created by this agreement is still to be fully dissipated.

So said general secretary of the Barbados Workers Union (BWU), Mr. Frank Walcott, as he delivered the feature address at the start of a seminar on "Trade Union and the IMF" at the Labour College, Mangrove, St. Philip on Monday.

The seminar is being sponsored by the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) and the American Institute for Free Labour Development (AIFLD).

After dealing with conditionalities imposed by the IMF on some Caribbean countries, Mr. Walcott looked at Barbados' involvement with the fund.

"We, in Barbados," he said, "have not been without some experience of what can happen to a country when it has to resort to the IMF to help solve financial and economic problems. As you are aware, the Barbados Government

negotiated a \$98.7 million support loan with the IMF, effective October 4, 1982 and extending to April 30, 1984.

"This loan was negotiated because of a mix of factors, including the poor performance of crucial sectors of the economy, as well as certain fiscal and financial excesses which put pressure on the balance of payments position of this country."

Mr. Walcott said that Barbados was able to meet the conditionalities imposed by the IMF and then terminated the agreement.

He continued: "However, the resort by Government to the IMF came in for harsh criticism by the political opposition, as well as members of the university community.

"We, in the trade union movement, were aware of the impact which the conditionalities, including wage and credit restraint, increased interest rates, lay-offs in the public sector, increased taxation and reduced Government expenditure, would have on the workers.

"Even though Barbados did not suffer the worst effects of IMF involvement in the country's economy, the threat to the workers' movement was a stark reality during the period of agreement, and the involvement has created a climate of operation which has not yet fully dissipated."

The BWU chief said the response of the IMF to some negative comments about its involvement in poor developing countries, reinforced the concept that the IMF is controlled by "aloof ivory tower type bureaucrats, who are impervious to understanding the realities of the impact of the IMF policies on small developing countries, whose financial expertise is often inferior to that of the technocrats employed by the fund".

"It would appear, from our assessment of IMF activities in a number of Third World countries that IMF policies tend to favour the more conservative sectors of society and the traditional centres of power," Mr. Walcott stated.

## Unemployment Figures

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 30 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] Unemployment in Barbados has been put at 17.8 per cent up to the end of June this year, the Government Statistical Department has reported.

That department said that data from the continuous household sample survey revealed that unemployment as a percentage of the labour force was some 2.3 per cent above the figure for the corresponding period last year.

The 17.8 per cent unemployment rate is believed to be the highest since 1975 and 1976, Unemployment was 22.5 percent at the end of 1975.

This high rate of unemployment reflects the continuing loss of jobs being experienced by Barbadian workers as a result of the prevailing economic climate in the country.

Although no figures have been released, it is believed that the bulk of job losses has been recorded in the manufacturing and hotel sectors.

The department reported also that in the second quarter of this year the male unemployment rate increased from 11.2 per cent in 1983 to 12.2 per cent in 1984.

According to the Department's release:

The number of people employed stood at 90 800, a decline of 5 700 from the figure of 96 500 for the second quarter of 1983.

Some 52 200 males and 38 600 females were employed in the quarter, as compared with 54 100 and 42 400, respectively in 1983.

The labour force fell by 2 400 from 112 900 in the 1983 period to 110 500 in 1984, while the total number of adults not in the labour force increased from 62 800 to 66 200 over the same periods.

The total number of adults, which stood at 175 700 during the period April-June, 1983, increased to 176 700 in the corresponding quarter of 1984.

The labour force as a percentage of total adults fell from 64.3 per cent in 1983 to 62.5 per cent in 1984.

CSO: 3298/1117

BRIEFS

PRC AMBASSADOR--New Chinese Ambassador to Barbados Li Jie will present his credentials to Governor General Sir Hugh Springer on Tuesday, a government statement said. A career diplomat, Jie has served in Kenya and the Gambia. [Text] [FL101427 Bridgetown CANA in English 1324 GMT 8 Sep 84]

NATIONAL DEBT--Barbados' national debt which has been fluctuating since September last year has surpassed the \$90 million mark, according to the latest bulletin from the Central Bank. According to the July edition of the Bank's Economic and Financial Statistics the national debt at the end of May this year stood at \$902.7 million. For the corresponding period last year it was \$827.8 million. At the end of the April this year the debt stood at \$873.8 million, and for the corresponding period in 1983 it was \$815.4 million. The domestic component of the debt stood at \$542.6 million while the foreign component was \$360.1 million at the end of May, according to the bulletin. Meanwhile, the foreign reserves which have been very healthy have been pegged at \$238.5 million also at the end of May this year. For a similar period last year the reserves stood at \$215.2 million. He said the tourism target should be the clientele who, per capita, spend the most money on the island. Mr. Williams said he was also distressed to hear "continuing talk on the possible devaluation of the Barbados dollar..." "Any such action would only be a short term gain but will cause long term damage," he said. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 29 Aug 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/1119

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, PRIVATE SECTOR GROUP SEEN AS RIVALS

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 5 Aug 84 pp 5, 12

[Text] The Belize Chamber of Commerce is not in competition with anybody, so why have a rival Public Sector Organization?

The answer, in the opinion of Industry Consultant Mr K.C. Dunn, a former Commissioner of Labour is that government needs a front organization through which it can push forward its socialist ideals. Government has already recognized this organization and plans to lend it the prestige and credibility which it needs so that it too, like the Chamber, can qualify for international funding.

Mr Dunn expressed these views in an interview with the Reporter last week.

Question: Why does a small place like Belize need two businessmen's organization?

K.C. Dunn: It doesn't. The Chamber of Commerce is recognized under Chapter 96 of the laws of Belize passed in 1930, and its function has always been to work in the national interest for the development of business and private enterprise. The Private Sector Organization, on the other hand, was formed a few years ago to further its own ends at the expense of the legitimate and legally constituted Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Question: What then is the purpose of the Private Sector Organization?

K.C. Dunn: The name Private Sector Organization is a misnomer. It is in fact a public sector organization set up in anticipation of a socialist state and directed by a government minister.

This organization follows government policy and it depends on government favours for its rewards.

Question: Government policy? What government policy?

The so-called Private Sector Organization is the nucleus of a body willing to assume management functions in any state-run enterprise which may be nationalized from time to time. Government needs this pool of willing talent to carry out its socialist policies, namely to control the commercial and industrial means of production in Belize.



Question: Is this good or bad?

K.C. Dunn: The experience of this method of government control by a Socialist government has been described as "a spectacular disaster" in Trinidad, where state-owned enterprizes have suffered some heavy losses amounting to almost a billion dollars. In the People's Republic of Guyana (which appears to be the model that Belize is trying to copy) the losses have led to a public debt of \$3.1 billion at the end of 1981.

Question: But Guyana is a republic and Belize still retains the Parliamentary system.

K.C. Dunn: Although we operate under a monarchical constitution and pay lip service to the Queen as our sovereign head, the government in power is planning and working towards a republican form of government. It is easier to develop absolute government with a republican form of government than with a Parliamentary one where the Prime Minister is dependent on the elected representatives of the House and Senate.

There are people in this government who want to stay in power forever. They will make their move when the time is ripe.

Question: What's to be done?

Patriotic Belizeans cannot lend themselves to this secret role of the "new and progressive Belizean revolution." There can be no accommodations with opposing principles.

The Chamber of Commerce in particular needs to stand tall with a high degree of integrity and unselfish motives in the interest and well being of its members and the community which it serves.

CSO: 3298/1102

PAPERS VOICE CRITICISM OF OTHER MEDIA OUTLETS

Bias at Radio Belize

Belize City DISWEEK in English 3 Aug 84 p 5

[Article signed "contributed": "Chaos at R.B."]

[Text] It is evident as Disweek pointed out some time ago that the change in the Cabinet responsibilities earlier this year, Radio Belize has taken a decided turn for the worse.

News broadcasts have become less and less impartial, nothing has been said about the "progressive elements" in the region, and we have heard no coverage of the upcoming elections in Nicaragua, a promise of the Sandinistas.

Radio Belize has become a "Voice of the State Department" with news casters being used to give VOA bias credibility to the Belizean listening public. And those who haven't been watching too much T.V. might have heard the trash which is being featured on the World at Seven such as the reactionary editorial comment entitled "The Betrayal of a Revolution"--a professional smear job on the Sandinista experience.

It has also been learnt that several talented staff members are involved in a frantic job search. The question is often asked: "Why this problem at R.B.?" Turnover rate of staff is said to be one of the highest, job morale the lowest, not to mention management incompetency.

The irony of the situation is that Mr Rene Villanueva has no one but himself to blame for the deteriorating situation in the Broadcasting Department, one of the most sensitive arms of the bureaucracy.

Something is definitely amiss there, and something must be done quickly.

Belize City THE BEACON in English 4 Aug 84 p 9

[Text]

Show me your company and I'll tell you who you are. Most people already know who their company is and who they are. Since *Disweek* is owned and controlled by two Pup communist ministers it is not surprising that it slavishly follows the communist line.

One does not have to read this newspaper for long to realise that it worships at the altar of communism. It is a communist newspaper - there can be no doubt about that.

Take for example its two latest issues. In the first, it severely criticises its own government for accepting donations from the United States government for the use of road building in the rural farm areas. It found every imaginable excuse for refusing this American generosity.

Every week this publication comes out with strong criticism of the USA. In the second issue it carried an article criticising U.S policy in Central America.

Significantly, not one issue of *Disweek* has ever criticised Russian imperialism and that of its satellite Cuba. The Russians invaded Poland, East Germany and the communist

bloc and have ruled over these countries in a more dictatorial fashion than any colonial power has ever done. In these countries there is no freedom. People are controlled by the gun, ferro-concrete walls and the constant threat of death.

But we need not delve so far back into history.

Take the current case of Afghanistan. In this hapless country thousands of innocent people are gunned down, bombed and liquidated daily. This is perfectly alright with the local communists. Communist atrocities do not count! They don't comment on it. They certainly do not condemn it.

Here are people who hypocritically express concern about human rights. But their concern does not extend into the borders of the enslaved masses of people suffering under the yoke of communist dictatorship. Their *modus operandi* is to take pot shots at isolated incidents elsewhere.

Happily, their propaganda fools no one in this country. And it is now only a matter of time before they face the wrath of the people when their rejection will be complete.

# ECONOMIC 'CRISIS' BRINGS CLAMPS ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE

## Ramifications of Action

Belize City THE BEACON in English 30 Jun 84 pp 1, 12

[Text] News reports appearing in sections of the press last week were the first indications Belizeans had that Belize was facing a crisis situation in meeting its foreign payments. One would have expected that the Minister of Finance would have told the nation two Fridays ago what was about to happen. As usual, the Minister of Finance treated the people with contempt and said nothing. But last week the banks were suddenly told that they would not be allowed to sell foreign currency unless they had the cash in hand. In other words, the banks can only sell today what they collected yesterday.

We are now living and eating on a day to day basis. The problem is that Belize spends more than it earns, and has to depend on foreign aid and money coming in from our relatives in the States to make up the difference. So that on any given day we will need to spend more than was taken in the day before. But now we can't, hence we are in a crisis. Some banks have decided not to sell any U.S. dollars at all until they can assess how much they have already guaranteed to pay to banks abroad. Those that are selling U.S. dollars cannot sell on the spot. They take your name down, and it's a matter of

"don't call us, we'll call you" when they have some dollars to sell.

The consequences of all this are serious indeed. There are hundreds of Belizeans abroad undergoing medical treatment or studying. They can no longer get the U.S. dollars to pay for this. The business community will find their business relations abroad damaged as foreign banks and business houses lose trust and confidence in our ability to pay our debts. One large company in Belize was due to make a payment of half a million dollars to foreign banks last week and was unable to make the payment because they could not ob-

tain the U.S. dollars. This means that this company will not only be in arrears on its debts, but will face interest charges as a result of failing to pay on time. If we cannot get the currency to pay for the goods we eat and wear and use, it means Belize will have to stop importing these things. It means Belize's credit on the international market will be cut off.

The other side of the coin is that the black market in U.S. dollars will begin to flourish. People who have U.S. dollars, knowing that you can't get any at the banks will begin to sell on a private basis. While the exchange rate is officially \$2.00 Belize for \$1.00 U.S., on the streets it is already up to \$2.30 Belize for a U.S. dollar, and the rate will continue to climb. This is another *de facto* devaluation of our dollar. This is an ideal set up for the big drug runners, because now all their illegally earned U.S. dollars will be in great demand and at a great price.

What is the cause of this sudden and unannounced crisis? For one

thing, our country's foreign reserves have fallen from 50 million dollars down to a mere 14 million dollars. So our money has very little back up. Secondly, Government itself is spending almost \$15 million this year in paying its foreign debts, hence there is less foreign currency available to us to pay for our imports.

Today, Belize is heading in the direction of Guyana and Jamaica under Manley. They both started out this way. What followed was most unpleasant. More and more controls on currency, police searches of homes, business places, and passengers for illegal U.S. dollars. Less and less goods on the shelves, more and more smuggling and a thriving black market. And more misery. If the PUP really cared for the poor and suffering, they would do the decent and civilized thing and resign from office. They only have a few more months to go, so why hang on until they have completely destroyed the economy? Out of spite and malice? Every day longer they stay in office we draw nearer the brink of bankruptcy. Let them do us all a great favour and get out of the way now!



## BEACON Criticism

Belize City THE BEACON in English 30 Jun 84 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

IN his remarks introducing a new schedule of taxes for his supplementary budget, Minister of Finance, George Price, told members of the House of Representatives and the country:

"In the circumstances, of falling revenues and rising expenditures we propose to raise more revenue - \$15 million during the next twelve months. In the circumstances, Government has decided to establish a relationship with the IMF at an early stage in order to prevent a devaluation of our currency at a later date when the situation is expected to worsen and would require harsher and more painful measures."

As usual, Prime Minister Price was using words to hide the harsh, brutal truth.

An appeal to the IMF for help is the last resort of a debt ridden government which has run its country to the edge of bankruptcy. You do not avoid devaluation by going to the IMF. When things get so desperate for you that you have to turn to the IMF you accept devaluation as the inevitable medicine.

Jamaica which is far more prosperous than Belize had to turn to the IMF in the aftermath of the Manley reign and has had to devalue, not once, but three times.

IMF does not lend money to a government for development. It lends money to help that government meet its foreign debts. But to get the IMF money you must first accept the IMF prescription, which in simple terms means that you must stop piling up foreign debts. That means that you must stop buying so much foreign goods. And according to the economists, the best way to discourage a people from buying imported goods is to make imported goods more expensive. And devaluation has proven the best method of making foreign goods more expensive.

We are sure that these hard facts of life have been explained to Finance Minister Price, but with election coming up, the great camouflager is going to play for time at the people's expense by making the people pay more taxes.

Let's face it, Price began his career with devaluation and God and the people willing, he will end it with devaluation.

## Growth of Black Market

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 15 Jul 84 pp 1, 5

[Excerpts] Three weeks after the imposition of restraints on foreign exchange in Belize the situation for businessmen and others who need U.S. dollars to carry on their business has grown progressively worse.

Furthermore there is evidence that a thriving black market has developed.

People who have US dollars are demanding--and getting--a ten percent commission on the dollars they sell. All over the city there is fear and uncertainty, and there are predictions that incipient shortages of food and other items could get worse.

To find out more about how local businessmen view the present problem the Reporter this week conducted a modest survey. Some local businessmen who in private expressed grave misgivings were not willing to have their comments appear in print. Others, however, were more helpful. Following are some of the comments received.

Mr Benito Quan, Managing Director of Augusto Quan & Co Ltd: "We have bills to pay at the bank and can't pay them. There is no foreign exchange to pay with. Storage fees for these goods are increasing and we can't get the goods out of Customs. It's very discouraging to import these days. Eventually everything will be in short supply unless we get some foreign exchange."

Mr D. Cambranes of the Freetown Road Bi-Way Store: "The foreign exchange problem is hurting everybody especially hurting business. Yesterday we paid one draft but more drafts are on the way. Where will we get the foreign exchange to pay them?"

"We still have some stock, but already the Marketing Board is short of rice and short of milk. There is in force a daily quota for rice. Some sight drafts have to be paid immediately, and we don't know where the foreign exchange will come from."

Mr Harry Lawrence, Manager of the Reporter Press: "Three weeks ago we needed a small draft for \$2,000 U.S. to pay an outstanding bill. We are still waiting in line for foreign exchange. The waiting period at Scotiabank for foreign exchange is three to four weeks. This is a new experience for Belize, and it's bound to have a disastrous impact on the economy."

CSO: 3298/1101

PRICE DESCRIBES LOW INFLATION RATE, UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 5 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] The Prime Minister of Belize, Mr George Price, using a perfectly straight face, told businessmen that Belize has an annual inflation rate of "between two and three percent."

Mr Price was guest speaker at the annual general meeting of the Private Sector Organization held at the Fort George Hotel last Sunday.

The Prime Minister said that the national public debt stood at \$144 million and that the country had a real growth rate of 1.5 percent and rising.

Unemployment, he said, stood at 14 percent and the country had foreign reserves amounting to "twenty-four million dollars."

Speaking about Belize's economic woes, the P.M. said the economic crisis in Belize had been due to circumstances beyond our control. He commended the Private Sector Organization for being very active last year and helping the government to work the "mixed economy."

Mr Price went on to say that the need for changes in the Belize economy was "imperative." "First we must produce for the home market, and secondly for the export market because the home market is too small."

There is going to be a new emphasis on CARICOM, Mr Price announced. "Import substitution is not to be abandoned, but foreign products are to be excluded and substituted by CARICOM products," he said.

CSO: 3298/1101

TALKS WITH GUATEMALA CENTER ON ISSUE OF TOLEDO

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 15 Jul 84 pp 1, 10

[Text]

DISCUSSION between representatives of the Belize and the Guatemalan governments on the latter's claim to Belize took place last Friday, July 7 in New York and lasted a few hours.

Coming as they did after the elections of July 1 in which the Centrist parties gained the upper hand in Guatemala, there appeared to have been a subtle change in the attitude of the Guatemalan delegation.

The tone was so amicable it promoted the diplomatic correspondent of London Times to write that Britain can dismantle her garrison in Belize without fear or aggression from the west.

From the British point of view, land continues to be the bone of contention. The Guatemalans have, according to one source, offered not to make any reference to Belize in the new constitution which the Constituent Assembly will write and to acknowledge Belize sovereignty and independence if Belize will agree to cede the Toledo district.

Guatemala further bolstered this offer, which is not a new one, by saying that the people of the Toledo District are in favour of Guatemala rule.

Guatemala's new pretensions at having the support of the people of Toledo are not borne

out by any statistics. But the Belize government registration of aliens seeking amnesty has revealed one significant and new statistic: the district with the most illegal aliens after Orange Walk and Cayo is Toledo. In Orange Walk the majority of aliens are Salvadorans, but in Cayo and Toledo most illegal aliens are Guatemalans.

Commenting on the talks, a spokesman for the Belize government this week said they were an effort to work out practical arrangements to avoid any incidents on the common borders. Discussions were informal and

explanatory the spokesman explained. These centered principally on matters affecting the border relations between the two countries. The spokesman described the discussions as "progressive" and "cordial".

In the talks just ended Belize was represented by the Ambassador to New York, Mr. Robert Leslie, who has since been recalled home, and by Mr. Telford Vernon, Deputy Financial Secretary. Representatives from the United Kingdom Government were also present as observers.

CSO: 3298/1101



PUP CONSTITUENCY NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 5 Aug 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] Members of the People's United Party of the Albert Constituency met at the City Centre on Sunday, 29th July at 3 p.m. to select the Executive Committee for that Division.

The meeting was conducted by the Party Chairman, the Hon Louis S. Sylvestre, assisted by the Hon Florencio Marin and the Hon Fred Hunter.

Chairman Sylvestre and Ministers Marin and Hunter addressed the meeting. This was followed by the election of the Chairman for the Executive Committee.

There were two candidates for the post, Mr Ernest Staine and Mr Doyle Prince.

At the end of the vote, Mr Staine won a majority and was declared to be the new Chairman of the Executive Committee for the Albert Constituency.

Minister Sylvestre asked the new Chairman to nominate the members of his Committee. Mr Staine named the following persons to be members of the Committee:

Mr Rafael Chavez, Vice Chairman; Ms Kathleen Hope, Secretary; Ms Lorna Cherrington, Assistant Secretary; Ms Daphne Williams, Treasurer; Mr George Swift, Campaign Manager; Mr Randolph Bradley, Youth Organizer; Ms Eunice Vernon, Chairlady, Social Committee; Mr W. Mariano, Chairman, Education Committee.

The new Executive Committee for the Albert Constituency was installed after the meeting offered no further nominations.

The new Chairman of the Executive Committee for the Albert Constituency, Mr Ernest Staine, is 47. He is married to Yvonne Swift and they have 3 children.

Lawyer Staine studied at Holy Redeemer, SJC, and UWI's Norman Manley Law School. He was a civil servant for 6 years and has served on Football and Cycling Committees. Mr Staine is an active member of St Ignatius Church and Scout Master.

CSO: 3298/1101

OFFSHORE OIL SEARCH DRILLING PLANS REPORTED

Belize City THE BEACON in English 30 Jun 84 p 4

[Text] The MV Definition will soon be concluding a 500 kilometre long offshore seismic survey from Placencia up to near the Barrier Reef as the search for oil in Belize continues. The Definition is carrying out the survey on behalf of Arco Belize Ltd which holds an oil exploration licence for the offshore Stann Creek District area.

By the end of the month Compaigne Generale de Geophysique (CGG), a French company is expected to start offshore seismic surveys in an area north of Placencia up to the mouth of the Sibun River and from there east up to the Barrier Reef.

This survey will be carried out for Pecten International Company, another oil exploration company holding an exploration licence in the area.

A spokesman for the Petroleum Office has said that a seismic oil survey is now being carried out by Occidental Petroleum in the blue Creek-San Pablo area of the Orange Walk District.

Meanwhile two small companies Alston-Eagle will start drilling operations within a matter of days in the Yalbac area of the Cayo District. The first oil well drilled in Belize was in 1955 in the Yalbac area. This and other wells in that small area had numerous live oil shows. Gulf Oil reported the oil was of a very high quality but was not in commercial quantities at the time.

CSO: 3298/1102

BRIEFS

AIRFIELD SHORTCOMINGS--There is now genuine fear among local airline companies whose planes must use the inadequate and unkept airfields scattered across the country, that they may soon have to face an airline disaster of a magnitude that has not been recorded locally. Those sentiments were vehemently expressed at a meeting of the Belize Aviation Association held on Wednesday. The association says that several letters written to the civil aviation authorities, detailing the dangers being faced by pilots and their passengers have remained unanswered. Among the more serious queries raised are the fact that the runways are far too short, that they are in a serious state of disrepair and contain dangerous pot holes, that there is not enough clearing of big trees and bush from areas surrounding the airfields, and that the airfields contain no wind sock to give landing crafts wind direction guidance. The association decided to address another strong letter to the Chief Aviation Officer, demanding a reply to previous correspondence that have remained unanswered. [Text] [Belize City THE BEACON in English 30 Jun 84 pp 1, 12]

CSO: 3298/1102

METALWORKERS UNION REGAINS LEGAL STATUS

PY141859 Paris AFP in Spanish 1727 GMT 14 Sep 84

[Text] Sao Paulo, 14 Sep (AFP)--The Metalworkers Union in Sao Bernardo do Campo, a workers stronghold where the large Brazilian car-making industries operate, yesterday regained its legal status following a court decision. The court also lifted the proscription that had been imposed over two of its top leaders, namely Luiz Inacio da Silva Lula and Jair Meneghelli.

This union has been functioning underground since July 1983 when the government intervened in an attempt to halt a strike that paralyzed most of the industrial sector in Sao Paulo, a strike that was joined by oil refinery workers.

Since July 1983 the metalworkers of Sao Bernardo have held clandestine meetings in a church with the presence of Jair Meneghelli, the leader of the metalworkers union who succeeded Lula, the president of the Workers Party (PT).

Last Thursday, the Federal Appellate Court (TFR) ruled in favor of the appeal submitted by the unionists elected on 10 July whose representativity was being questioned by the government.

This way, the Sao Bernardo union, which is regarded as the spearhead of the metalworkers in the Sao Paulo area regains its legal status under the presidency of Jair Meneghelli, the vice presidency of Mario dos Santos Barboza, and with Luiz Inacio da Silva as its member on the Executive Board of the Metalworkers Federation.

CSO: 3348/8

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

PCB SUPPORT FOR NEVES--The Brazilian Communist Party [PCB] has announced officially its support for opposition candidate Tancredo Neves. The decision was approved by the 33 members of the National Commission for the Legalization of the PCB which is acting as a Central Committee. Asked about the PCB decision to support his candidacy, Neves said that although he does not agree with the ideals of that organization, if he is elected president, there will be no anticommunist hysteria or antimilitaristic revenge during his administration. [Text] [PA201925 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Sep 84]

CSO: 3348/8



ADMINISTRATION CONFRONTED BY CHARGES OF CORRUPTION

WA181200 Rome IPS in English 17 Sep 84

[Article by Manuel Torres]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 17 Sep (IPS)--Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova's administration is now facing so many different charges of corruption that the president has authorized an investigation of his economic dealings, and advised other officials to do the same.

"My conscience is clean," Suazo Cordova asserted several days ago, "and I hope the rest of the public officials follow my example."

Specifically, the president authorizes the attorney general's office on 14 September to investigate his foreign bank accounts.

The current accusations against administration officials are particularly sensitive, since Suazo Cordova, a physician from rural Honduras, campaigned for election in 1981 promising a "revolution of work and honesty."

One of Honduras' three vice presidents said recently that he is embarrassed that the campaign slogan is still being used.

Since Suazo Cordova took office in January 1982, his Liberal Party administration has frequently been the target of charges in the Honduran press that officials are growing wealthy from irregular business dealings and that public funds are ending up in politicians' pockets.

The right-wing daily EL HERALDO reported on 14 September that 18 state subsidies for poor communities never reached their official destination.

This case could be termed "the scandal of the week" for Suazo Cordova's administration, EL HERALDO quipped.

One of the main targets of the current corruption charges is Benigno Irias, vice president of congress, who is accused of selling land to the state at an excessive price.

Irias, an attorney who is a close friend of the president, has denied the charges that he sold a 3.5-acre plot in Olancha Province to the state illegally.

Irias transferred the land, to be used as the site for a school, to a relative just before the sale to the state. Critics say this was a maneuver to mask the fact that Irias was making the profit.

The government bought the land, which had previously been valued at [figure indistinct], for \$50,000.

The congress vice president maintains that this price increase was not unusual, since the cost of land in Honduras "goes up every day," but this explanation has not convinced his press critics.

Nicolas Cruz Torres, a legislator from the right-wing National Party, is among those who are demanding that Irias resign his post or be dismissed.

"It would be unpleasant if some day, in the [congress] president's absence, a politician accused of corruption led the session," Cruz Torres argued.

A Christian Democratic legislator has proposed creation of a congressional ethics commission to investigate and punish legislators for irregular business dealings.

One of the charges against the administration was the "disappearance" of more than 200 tons of powdered milk donated by the European Economic Community (EEC) for Honduran children.

Former Education Minister Alma Rodas was directly implicated in that incident, which dominated headlines in Honduran newspapers in mid-1983, and she resigned several months later, although she had Suazo Cordova's vote of confidence.

The administration also drew fire for importing a large quantity of pencils for a nationwide literacy campaign, although pencils are produced locally.

Another controversy has arisen over the Supreme Court's decision to build a new headquarters, which is now under construction at an estimated cost of several million dollars, without holding a public hearing on the need for such a project at a time when the public purse is severely strained.

A variety of other scandals, although minor ones, have also served to undermine the administration's credibility.

In recent opinion polls, Hondurans have expressed dissatisfaction over the charges of corruption and said they expect Suazo Cordova to correct the situation.

To date, no top official has been tried for irregular economic dealings.

Some administration authorities blame the press for what they say are distortions of the truth.

Liberal Party President Romulado Bueso Penalva said here last weekend, "We are tired of the information abuses which are accusing us of being corrupt."

The ruling party leaders and legislators are to meet this week to design a strategy to help them recover their credibility with voters.

"We are not going to permit the legislators to continue being treated like dirty rags," said Bueso Penalva.

"Anyone who says we are thieves must prove it," he said.

CSO: 3200/1

## SECURITY MINISTER STIRS ROW WITH 'THREAT' AGAINST MEDIA

### Montego Bay Meeting

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Aug 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] A threat to hit anyone tape-recording him without his permission, was issued by the Hon. Winston Spaulding, Minister of National Security and Justice and Attorney-General, at a meeting on Thursday at the Wexford Court Hotel, Montego Bay.

The meeting was to formulate plans to curb the illicit drug trade in the resort areas and was reported in the Gleaner on Friday.

Around 11 a.m., two journalists, one from the Gleaner and the other from the JCB, were summoned to the meeting by a member of the Montego Bay Chamber of Commerce, who said he had been asked by Mr. Spaulding to do so.

However, when the journalists arrived at the conference centre they were barred from entering and told that the meeting was private. This, they were told, was on the instructions of the Minister. They were then told that a photographer would be allowed in to take pictures and that they should return at 3 p.m. for a press briefing.

At 3.15 p.m. when the journalists turned up again, they were again told that the meeting was private. However, by this time they were in the meeting and following consultations between Mr. Spaulding and executives of the C of C, the Minister suggested that the journalists stay on condition that they regarded what they heard as confidential information, and wait until the meeting adjourned when the press would be told what "the participants" wanted published.

Speaking to Mr. Godfrey Dyer, past president of the C of C, whom he addressed as "press co-ordinator," Mr. Spaulding said that if the press stayed and regarded what was being said as being "off the record", he would have no objection.

According to Mr. Spaulding, he did not have any good relationship with anyone because he was a blunt man and did not appear on Portfolio, (A JBC-TV interview programme), or any other programme, and he was not in any contest for popularity.

Laughingly, Mr. Winston Dear, C of C President, said he was sure the press would honour that request, and Mr. Dyer said he would undertake the responsibility.

The journalists remained in the meeting, standing at the back of the room behind the audience.

Later, while Mr. Spaulding was summing up the day's deliberations, Mr. Shalman Scott, Mayor of Montego Bay, who was also at the head table, leaned over and whispered to Mr. Spaulding. Mr. Spaulding then broke off his speech and without addressing anybody in particular, said he did not want anyone coming out there, taping his speech. He restated that he did not have good relationship with any institution at all--not even with his own party, (the JLP).

He threatened that if anybody got inside there and taped him, it would cause a reaction where they would find out what he could do. He asked anyone taping him to turn off the tape-recorder as, he said, he acted on trust and he himself would start taping and recording people if he were forced to.

Mr. Spaulding spoke of people getting what they could today, but getting nothing tomorrow, adding: "And yu gwine get some bitch lick put on top of it." He said that those who did not know him, would know him now and if anything were published about it, they would find out the kind of person he was.

The Minister issued his threats in the presence of Police Commissioner Joseph Williams, several senior police officers from Montego Bay, Falmouth and Ocho Rios, and a cross-section of the tourism and business community from the Montego Bay and Ocho Rios areas.

#### Press 'Overreaction'

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] The Montego Bay Chamber of Commerce has described the incident involving the Minister of National Security, the Hon. Winston Spaulding, and members of the press at a recent meeting as "a storm in a teacup" and declared that it had been "blown out of all proportion" in reports concerning it.

Mr. Winston Dear, President of the Chamber, issued the following statement on the matter yesterday:

"The Montego Bay Chamber of Commerce & Industry is most disturbed over the wide publicity given to a minor incident that occurred during a recent meeting convened by the Chamber to discuss the illicit drug trade in the resort area.

The Minister of National Security, the Hon. Winston Spaulding, in response to the serious situation arranged a meeting and invited the following people: the Hon. Douglas Vaz, Minister of Industry & Commerce; the Hon. Dr. Ken Baugh, Minister of Health; the Hon. Dr. Marco Brown, Minister of State for Tourism; the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Joe Williams; Mayor Shallman Scott,



Senator Chris Bovell; and all the high-ranking police officers, Customs and Immigration officials and prominent and concerned citizens of the society.

Due to the frank and confidential nature of the discussion, the press was not invited to attend but were requested to receive a statement emanating from the meeting. Because of the seriousness of the subject, the meeting ran late into the afternoon and when the journalists returned a statement had not been prepared. At this point they were invited to attend the remainder of the meeting but were requested not to tape-record the proceedings.

Unfortunately, some of the meeting was recorded and when the Minister (Mr. Spaulding) became aware of this he voiced his strong objection to this breach of confidence.

It was unfortunate that members of the press took personal umbrage over a general statement of fact, for if the Minister did not respect them he would have asked them to leave the meeting and await a formal press release.

On reflection, it is the opinion of the chamber that the incident is but a 'storm in a tea cup' and has been blown out of all proportion, as no one present at the meeting could have interpreted what the Minister said as being a physical threat against the journalists present".

--Statements were also issued yesterday by the Press Association of Jamaica and by the Montego Bay-based Jamaica Association of Journalists, criticising the Minister's action in the affair.

#### PNP Call for Apology

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 31 Aug 84 p 14

[Text] The People's National Party says it deplores in the strongest terms the threat made by National Security Minister Winston Spaulding against journalists who were performing their legitimate duty at the meeting called to discuss ways to stem the flow of drugs into the Tourist Industry.

In a statement by Rev. K. D. Knight, the PNP said it called on Mr. Spaulding to publicly apologise to the journalists whom he threatened in this 'vulgar' manner.

CSO: 3298/1123

## HEALTH MINISTRY LAYOFF OF 1,500 BRINGS PNP REACTION

### Plans for Staff Cuts

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] MAJOR CUTS in staff at the Ministry of Health are expected and some 1,500 workers may be laid off with a possibility of a 50 per cent cut in the number of community health aides.

Reports reaching the Gleaner are that various lists have been made to see where cuts can be effected and though "no definitive decisions have been made" it is understood that about 1,500 workers are to be laid off.

The Minister of Health, the Hon. Dr. Kenneth Baugh questioned about the cut-backs in staff said that he could not give any figures. In a statement on Wednesday he said he was not in a position to make any "definitive statement" about that matter. "The extent to which cuts in staff will have an impact on this Ministry is a matter of discussion between the Ministries of Finance, Public Service and Health," he said.

Dr. Horace Chang, Parliamentary Secretary, in an address at the Dental Auxiliary School's graduation in July had said that the Ministry would maintain facilities and services but they had "to reduce the fat in order to maintain the service". He said then that there were 12,000 employees in the Ministry, the largest in the civil service, pointing out that in order to ensure that professionals were employed they had to make adjustments.

In speaking of the reported crisis in the health service, Dr. Chang had said there was no need for the public to panic, adding that adjustments were being made in the service and that priority was being given to the professional core. He said they were making adjustments necessary to maintaining the service and that they intended to keep their commitment to those persons who they had trained.

The situation in some sections of the service has been described as tense because of the job insecurity. "There is definitely a crisis in terms of people being tense in relation to the insecurity of their jobs. It is a mental crisis with the uncertainty about the jobs and the cut-backs in the public service", an informed source said.

The Gleaner understands that the community health aides may be reduced by 50 per cent and that this is the request to health planners to see if this level of cut can be tolerated in the service. Sources say the cut back in this programme will have an adverse effect on the public health service especially in maternal and child care and family planning. It is understood that certain suggestions are being made on how to make the cuts in order to do as little damage as possible.

#### PNP Reaction

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 30 Aug 84 p 3

[Text] The People's National Party has said it deplores and repudiates any attempt by the Government to reduce the number of employees in the country's Health Services at a time when the Government is unable to fill some five hundred vacancies in the Health Services. In a release received by the Gleaner on August 29, the General Secretary of the PNP Dr. Robertson said.

"The Government is proposing to lay off fifteen hundred employees in the Health Services when there are vacancies for five hundred Registered Nurses which they are unable to fill. Such is the extreme shortage of Health Workers in the Public Service that at one rural hospital there are only nine nurses out of a complement of thirty four. Yet in the face of all this, the country is being told that fifteen hundred Health Workers are to be laid off.

The People's National Party has taken note of reports that at least fifty per cent of the health workers to be laid off will be Community Health aides. The People's National Party warns that any such move by the Government will result in a vastly inferior service to the poor of the society, as Community Health aides provide an invaluable service to the communities in which they work. They have been responsible for bringing the plight of the poor to the attention of the Public Health nurses with whom they work. A cutback in the number of Community health aides, therefore, will considerably reduce this service, and only the poor in the society will be affected.

The People's National Party is extremely concerned that the country's Health Services at one time considered one of the finest anywhere in the Third World, has been allowed to deteriorate to the present level and further that this deterioration may be taken even further with the laying off of the proposed fifteen hundred health workers.

The People's National Party must question whether any consultation on the proposed cutback has taken place with the relevant bodies and organisations which represent workers in the Health Services.

The People's National Party would also like the country to be told whether the proposed laying off of fifteen hundred health service workers is part of the overall strategy to lay off over seven thousand Government workers and from what other areas are workers to be laid off.

GOVERNOR GENERAL HAILS WARM RELATIONS WITH PRC

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 18 Aug 84 p 20

[Text] The Governor-General, Sir Florizel Glasspole, has spoken of the warm relations between Jamaica and the People's Republic of China, a relationship which he says has not been affected by the distance between the two countries.

Sir Florizel has also noted that the people of China, with hundreds of years of civilization behind them, are trying to build a new society and has, on behalf of the people of Jamaica, wished them "every success".

The Governor-General made these comments on August 15 when he received members of the Guangdong Acrobatic Troupe from the People's Republic of China, at King's House.

Sir Florizel, who attended the Troupe's opening performance at the National Arena last Sunday evening, said he and Lady Glasspole enjoyed the show and thought the display was excellent.

He told the Guangdong acrobats that they were very good ambassadors of their country and an example of what China had been able to do for its young people.

Members of the group thanked Sir Florizel for his "kind words" and for attending their opening performance. They presented the Governor-General with a hand-made porcelain jar from the People's Republic of China. Sir Florizel assured them that the gift would be displayed in "conspicuous position" at King's House.

The Troupe was accompanied on this courtesy visit to the Governor-General by the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Gao Jie, and by Mr. Zhao Zongxiang, the First Secretary at the Embassy.

CSO: 3298/1124

UNION NEGOTIATORS WALK OUT OF TALKS WITH DISPUTES TRIBUNAL

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 31 Aug 84 pp 1, 3

[Excerpt] THE UNIONS REPRESENTING hourly-paid and clerical workers at the Jamaica Public Service Company, the EITU and the NWU, walked out of yesterday's meeting of the Industrial Disputes Tribunal (IDT), which had been scheduled to start hearing arguments from both parties on the workers' claim for improvements in wages and fringe benefits.

The unions walked out after the chairman of the three-man panel, Mr. K. K. Walters, refused to state whether the panel would be guided by wage guidelines in the deliberations or not. No date was set for another meeting as the sitting broke up after the unions left.

The problem started when NWU's General Secretary, Mr. Clive Dobson, asked Mr. Walters whether the tribunal would be guided by any wage guidelines in dealing with the pay dispute. Mr. Walters said that he could not answer the question, and suggested that the unions go ahead making their presentations based on the brief they had already sent into the tribunal.

After a prolonged discussion, during which Mr. Dobson insisted that the tribunal answer the question, and Mr. Walters insisted that he would not, the union officers left the meeting followed by their delegates.

After the unions left, the tribunal adjourned for a date to be fixed.

Yesterday evening, the NWU sent a letter to the Minister of Labour, copies of which were circulated to the media, requesting what they called a clear interpretation of the question of public sector pay awards, as stated in Annex One of Ministry Paper Number 50; or, a "firm understanding" on "the question of restraints of levels not exceeding inflation rates over the medium term."

The letter signed by NWU negotiating officer, Mr. Trevor McNish, said that the unions were forced to withdraw from the proceedings, and that their decision was precipitated by the fact that "whereas we have the greatest respect for the ruling of the IDT, as leaders of the workers it behoves us to tell them the truth. We tried to ascertain from the IDT whether or not it was operating under any enactment which regulates the wages and fringe benefits within the public sector and was told by the IDT that it is a question it could not answer."



The letter continued: "We take the strongest objection to the IDT's ruling and insist that this matter of a 'wage guideline' be settled before the dispute is heard."

The letter also said that the unions felt that the process of arbitration was an extension of the negotiating process, and where there was no clear understanding that the arbitrators would maintain the basic **tenet** of being able to look at the issue objectively, accordingly, no reasonable decisions based upon the true merits of the dispute could be expected.

CSO: 3298/1125

## VANCIE TRUCE HALTS VIOLENCE; ARNETT GARDENS CALLED 'JUNGLES'

## Truce Meeting

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 26 Aug 84 p 1

## [Text]

Leaders of both factions in the Vanzie Lands section of Falmouth which has been troubled by political violence for the last few weeks have decided to seek "mutual co-existence" and a reduction of the tension and violence in the town.

The decision was arrived at yesterday afternoon at the Falmouth Police Station after the release of 39 persons who had been detained in Police operations up to Friday. In the operations described as "massive" 42 persons were detained. Three are still being held for further "processing."

The Police Information Centre said it has no information on the matter.

## Decision in lock-up

The conflict has so far left six persons from the PNP and the JLP seriously injured and citizens of North Trelawny apprehensive about further violence. The Minister's Fraternal of Trelawny has already intervened and has met with Mr. Keith

Russell, MP for the area and with Mr. Desmond Leaky, PNP Constituency representative. The violence heightened in July when supporters of the PNP and the JLP clashed and the police were stoned.

It is understood that discussions about a truce or some form of agreement to end the conflict began Friday night in the police station where members of both factions among those detained shared lock-ups.

Mr. Keith Russell presided over the meeting. The *Gleaner* learnt that representatives at the meeting said they would work for a reduction of "political tension and violence in Falmouth and towards co-existence in the town." They also commended the Falmouth Police for their handling of the situation and the speed with which the matter of their release was treated.

They also agreed to make use of an open lot which now separates the territories of both warring factions and have proposed that a recreation centre for the use of both factions be set up there.

## Return of Residents

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Aug 84 p 1

## [Text]

Scores of residents who had fled the Vanzie Lands area of Falmouth began returning home yesterday following a truce between feuding PNP and JLP factions.

The truce was reached Saturday afternoon and residents of Falmouth and other areas of North Trelawny who were gripped by fear following

events of the last month began welcoming the move. By late yesterday as the news spread, residents who had abandoned their homes were seen returning bedding and bundles of clothing to their abandoned homes following the week long political warfare in that community.

The sporadic outbreak of political

violence in Vanzie Lands has left the entire North Trelawny constituency apprehensive and during last week's fighting, resulted in a massive exodus of mainly children and the elderly who were shipped off to the homes of relatives and friends.

A spokesman for the police told the **Gleaner** yesterday that "everyth-

ing seems to be back to normal", and that since Saturday a number of residents have been returning from their temporary exile. Mr. Keith Russell, MP for North Trelawny who initiated the meeting which led to the truce Saturday, told the **Gleaner** yesterday that the truce "was holding."

### Criticism of PNP Faction

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 30 Aug 84 p 3

[Text] Member of Parliament for Southern St. Andrew, Mr. Earl Spencer, told the **Gleaner** last night that he would not be sending any JLP scrutineers into Arnett Gardens (Concrete Jungle) to hand out identification cards because of the violent nature of the area.

Mr. Spencer said that he had taken the decision after the shooting of Mr. Keith Darby of Wilton Gardens (Rema) on Tuesday evening by gunmen who he said had come into the area from Arnett Gardens to break up a meeting involving youths from Wilton Gardens, Tivoli Gardens, Denham Town and Rose Town to discuss sports and cultural projects.

Mr. Spencer said that the report on the incident which appeared in yesterday's **Star** was "totally misleading." He said that Mr. Darby was one of the chief architects of the meeting between youths, and that he was shot Tuesday evening at about 6.30 p.m., and not in the morning as had been reported.

He said that since the shootings which took place earlier this year, youths from the four areas represented at the meeting had been working together on cultural and sports projects in order to patch-up their differences. However, he said that those attempts were being frustrated by persons from Arnett Gardens whom he said were controlled by violent political elements outside of the PNP.

Mr. Spencer said that the "peace meeting" had started in Wilton Gardens at about 5 p.m. He said that when he arrived in the area at about 6 p.m. he was informed that information had reached some people in Arnett Gardens about the meeting and they had decided that it should be disrupted.

He said that while he was in the area shots were fired into Wilton Gardens area and persons attending the meeting including himself had to seek cover. He said that about 6.30 p.m., he was informed that one of the organizers of the meeting had been called away to the corner of Sixth Street and East Road, where several shots were heard and where he was found shot later on.

Mr. Spencer said that he was summoned to the Denham Town Police Station where he found Mr. Darby bleeding. He took him in his car to the Kingston Public Hospital.

Mr. Spencer said he wished to remind the nation of his speech in Parliament in which he spoke of the violent conditions in Arnett Gardens, which he said was controlled by a violent political element and that the PNP no longer had any control over the area.

"I insisted then, and still do now more convincingly, that my crutineers will not go into Arnett Gardens under these circumstances to distribute any identification cards.

'I am calling on the leaders of the PNP who want their supporters to get their identification cards and to legally have a vote in any coming elections, to help get rid of these very violent political elements now in Arnett Gardens.

"I am further calling on the Minister of National Security and Justice and the Commissioner of Police to use every power possible in a legal way to rid this part of my constituency of these violent people."

He said that he was also calling on the citizens of Wilton Gardens whom he said were constantly under the threat of violence, to be calm and allow the security forces to do their job "without fear or favour."

A police source confirmed last night that Mr. Darby had been shot but gave no further information.

CSO: 3298/1122

# SEAGA SEES NEED FOR DATA ON DRUGS, OTHER ILLEGALITIES

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 26 Aug 84 pp 1,2

[Text] PRIME MINISTER Edward Seaga has said that there is a need for statistical information on illegal activities such as the ganja trade, foreign exchange leakage and illegal imports.

Mr. Seaga said that these areas "which are still shrouded in doubt" were very relevant to any analysis of the foreign exchange crisis facing the country.

The Prime Minister was speaking on Friday at the Jamaica Conference Centre in Kingston.

The function which marked the inauguration of the Statistical Institute which has replaced the Department of Statistics, was chaired by Actuary, Mrs. Daisy Coke, with Mrs. Carmen McFarlane, Director-General of the Institute, giving an address in which she detailed the historical development of statistical research and recording in Jamaica. The Rev. C. Evans Bailey said prayers.

Mr. Seaga said that as the situation in the country changed, the need for information changed with it, and the country came to rely more and more on the statistician. In dealing with the relevance of information available, Mr. Seaga said, "Today we have in this country a severe foreign exchange crisis. It appears on the surface that there is an extreme shortage of foreign exchange to satisfy the demand for imports, the repatriation of profit and the servicing of debts. This picture emerges very clearly from the available statistics."

## Still in Doubt

But, the Prime Minister said, there were some important areas still shrouded in doubt. "What is the extent of the leakage in foreign exchange? In what areas is it occurring and at what levels in each area? What is the value of illegal imports or, on the other hand, how much of our exports are made through informal channels and not recorded in the official statistics?"

Turning to ganja, the Prime Minister said, "A major factor of life in Jamaica relates to the growing, reaping, sale and general distribution of ganja yet this is insufficiently articulated in our official statistics."



Mr. Seaga said he was not making a criticism of the statistical records on these points, as the situation was similarly treated in other countries. He said the main reason for this was that in most countries it was difficult to get the information and there was a general perception that such information -as of little weight in the economy of those countries. But he questioned whether the same could be said of the importance and availability of such data to Jamaica.

#### Sound Base

Speaking generally of the role of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica, he said it should be to disseminate information which was in the public interest, while preserving confidentiality within the terms provided under the Statistics Act.

Mr. Seaga said that the Institute must gear its operations within policy parameters reflecting the general public interest, being guided by and responsive to those considerations. In that regard, the policies adopted must take full cognizance of the need for a sound data base for the development of economic and social policies and programmes and for monitoring their implementation and evaluating their effectiveness.

"The Institute must conduct its operations with a view to maximizing the use of all the resources for the greatest possible good." Mr Seaga said, "In keeping with the Statistics Act under which it is governed, it must protect the right to privacy of persons and institutions. At the same time, the Institute must recognize the requirement for providing the information which is needed for the public.

"The policy therefore should be to disseminate such information which is in the public interest, while preserving confidentiality within the terms provided under the Statistics Act."

Mr. Seaga said that as a general policy, the Government would provide a subvention to the Institute to provide the data necessary for its macro-planning.

He said that most, if not all, of that data was important to sectoral Ministries and other Government agencies, to the private sector and to the academic community. Thus, all of the information would be available at minimal costs to cover printing and so on, to the public at large.

Private sector agencies, including consultancy firms, would also be required to pay the commercial rates for data not produced as part of the general programmes of the Institute.

Mr. Seaga said that the responsiveness of the statistical offices to new perceptions of development problems was constrained by shortages of resources, of qualified and experienced officers, who could design surveys and prepare their results; of equipment; and, of finance for field work.

He said that those shortages were all the more severe in a country such as Jamaica, where the Government's determination to reduce poverty and external dependence was more than merely verbal.

He said that it was for that reason that there was the need to maximize to the fullest extent possible, the limited resources available in that field, which was the rationale behind the establishment of the Statistical Institute.

He said that it would service the sectoral Ministries and other agencies of Government; provide the private sector with a base whereby its services in the field of data collection, analysis and dissemination can be made readily available to them; and, provide information to the academic community to assist them in their analysis and research.

CSO: 3298/1122

## PATTERSON DESCRIBES PNP ECONOMIC, SOCIAL PROGRAM

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 31 Aug 84 p 10

[Text]

Mr. P.J. Patterson, Chairman of the People's National Party has described the Party's Economic and Social Plan which is now being finalised as being a democratic participatory model for development, says a release from Creative Projects which reached the *Gleaner* on August 29. He said the Party was convinced that Jamaicans had to be involved in the process of national decision making and had to be highly motivated through a process of participation and understanding, in order for any programme of economic and social development to succeed.

The PNP Chairman who was addressing the National Association of Jamaican and Supportive Organisations (NAJASO)

at its Seventh Annual Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on Friday, August 24, said that the projected image of prosperity in Jamaica, abroad and at home, did not conform with the economic and social realities being experienced in Jamaica.

Mr. Patterson said that the latest indication of economic chaos was the revelation that the Cost of Living had increased by 20% during the first six months of 1984. He said it was anticipated to increase by 50% by December. He said that the number of employed Jamaicans had decreased from 761,000 in October 1981, to 756,350 in October 1982 and 745,000 in October 1983. It was therefore not surprising, he added, that in order to alleviate the strain being experienced by the poor and unemployed that the Jamaica Labour Party had introduced the Food Stamp programme and that almost half of

the population qualified for the weekly supply of Ten Dollars worth of free cornmeal, skimmed milk and flour.

At the same time, Mr. Patterson said there was an increasing number of foreign consultants brought to Jamaica being paid emoluments of \$200,000 and up to \$350,000 annually. It was no wonder, he declared, that electricity rates, for example, had been increased by 100%. Other increases consumers had to bear included 100% more for overseas telephone calls and 50% on local long distance telephone calls.

Mr. Patterson gave his audience a long list of some of the increases he said Jamaicans were now paying, such as cooking gas, gasoline, kerosene oil, water rates, rental of houses, rice, chicken, codfish and motor vehicles.

At the same time there were shortages of flour, bread, rice, butter, margarine and other basic items, he said.

# DEVELOPMENTS INVOLVING TRADE, CURRENCY REPORTED

## JMA on Illegal Imports

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Aug 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] DESCRIBING ILLICIT IMPORTS as "a cancer eating away any chance this country has of becoming export-competitive," Mr. Paul Thomas, Deputy President of the Jamaica Manufacturers Association, has called for concerted action to rid the nation of this disease.

"I call on the trade union leadership and citizens of Jamaica to recognize that support for Jamaican goods means Jamaican production and the preservation of Jamaican jobs," he said in a statement to members of the J.M.A. Board of Directors.

Going back to a statement issued by the president of the J.M.A. Mr. Anthony Williams, last month, drawing attention to the alarming proportion to which illegal imports had grown, Mr. Thomas said that since then there had been major factory closures, with many workers losing their jobs, because of the incidence of illegal imports.

Particularly affected have been the footwear and garment sectors of the Industry, Mr. Thomas said, as he declared that illicit and illegal imports were a cancer eating away any chance of the country becoming export-competitive; a cancer eating away the commitment and will of the Structural Adjustment Programme.

"Illicit imports are not just the J.M.A.'s problem but a national problem," he said. "A problem born out of political double standard by successive Governments which have corrupted the rule of Law by effectively saying there is one justice for the legitimate corporate business and another law and morality for informal traders merely because they are small.

"Our political directorate has confused its own enforcement authorities who, it appears, can no longer determine what is right and for whom, because there is no longer one justice for all.

"I am convinced that the country has all the relevant laws and regulations on the books if only applied dispassionately and courageously to deal with the

problems of illicit imports. What is lacking is the political leadership and will to deal with the problem."

Mr. Thomas referred to the recent statement by Mr. Denis Lalor, Chairman of Investment and Finance Merchant Bankers Ltd., that smuggled goods into the island current exceeded \$800-million per annum while duties were not being collected on goods worth approximately \$1-billion.

"Based on the blows to the footwear and garment sector, I am inclined to agree with him. This Association has already stated that the Government would not need a 6% tax on legitimate raw material imports if it collected its just and due revenue on the illegal imports," he said.

Mr. Thomas noted growing interest among members of the public, as reflected by news reports appearing in the Gleaner, in the subject of illegal imports; but in his view "this new interest in illicit imports" did not mean "one structurally adjusted cent" to the manufacturing sector.

#### Excess Liquidity Problem

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 31 Aug 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] New measures to halt what was called the fuelling of increased imports by excess liquidity in the banking system were announced yesterday by the Prime Minister Mr. Seaga, a statement from the Office of the Prime Minister said:

Prime Minister Edward Seaga yesterday held discussions with bankers and representatives of major importers to inform them of new arrangements the Government is putting into place for the financing of imports in view of the growing liquidity in the local banking system.

The Prime Minister told the bankers and importers that the excess liquidity was fueling increased imports into the island, as the results of the Bank of Jamaica foreign-exchange auctions in August show that cash demand to finance imports averaged U.S.\$3.5M per auction as against US\$2.1M per auction during July.

Some of this increased imports is in the consumer goods category, the Prime Minister said, and the economy cannot sustain this level of imports, nor is it in keeping with the Government's overall programme to improve Jamaica's economic position.

To ensure that the balance of payments target for 1984/85 is not jeopardised by a continuing increase in imports over and above what was programmed, it has been decided to increase the statutory liquid assets ratio of the commercial banks to soak up the excess liquidity that had surfaced in the system.

Effective Friday, September 14, 1984, the statutory liquid assets ratio for commercial banks will be increased from 40% to 44% and the cash reserve ratio



will be increased from 10% to 13%. At present, the liquid assets ratio is approximately 43%.

Mr. Seaga also announced that Letters of Credit for new imports will now be financed through the forward market which had been established for that purpose, or through Lines of Credit. The maximum amount for Letters of Credit that will be included for each auction is to be US\$250,000.

As the Export Development Fund is now fully operational, the Prime Minister said, all eligible imports will be directed to this source for financing.

Mr. Seaga said that there is a tendency for importers to demand cash to finance their imports while available credit is ignored and that the economy as it stands, and in accordance with plans to put it on a sound foundation, cannot support a system based largely on cash transactions.

The Prime Minister said that when the Industrial Rehabilitation Loan, signed earlier this year with the Inter-American Development Bank, comes on stream this will put substantial additional credit into the system.

#### Lumber Imports

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 19 Aug 84 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] THE IMPORTATION of rough lumber is to be phased out by the end of this year and from January it will be officially prohibited.

Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, disclosed this on Friday evening as he announced a new plan that will integrate lumber distribution and marketing and rationalise the production of the Forest Industries Development Company sawmill in line with the needs of the Jamaican market.

He was speaking at the official opening of FIDCo's Twickenham Park Industrial Complex in St. Catherine.

Mr. Seaga explained his Government's long-term and short-term objectives in its forest-industry policy and said the former were the responsibilities of FIDCo while the latter belonged to the Jamaica Commodity Trading Company.

The JCTC, he said, had been importing some 40 million board feet of pine lumber each year, mostly from the South Eastern United States. At an average cost of US\$408 per thousand board feet, this represented a foreign exchange expenditure of US\$16.3M each year.

#### Pattern-Stock

Of the 40 million board feet, about 26 million were dressed and the remaining 14 percent, were rough. And of the 26 million board feet of dressed lumber, about 50 per cent were "pattern stock" (specially manufactured tongue and groove items like ceiling, flooring, partitioning and siding).

Those items, Mr. Seaga said, were no longer used in the U.S.A. to any extent as a result of which they were most costly to be imported by the JCTC.

He announced that under a new contract between the JCTC and FIDCo, the latter would devote its production at the Wickenham Park mill exclusively to pattern-stock items.

JCTC will purchase all the production from FIDCo, paying in Jamaican dollars.

Mr. Seaga said that over the next 12 months, FIDCo was expected to produce between four million and five million board feet of pattern stock from local trees and at the current cost of \$436 per thousand board feet, would result in a foreign exchange saving of over U.S.\$2M.

The Prime Minister also disclosed that in addition, local savings resulting from FIDCo dropping its marketing function and with it, the problems of bad debts and inventory obsolescence, would be nearly \$1M.

'This is the kind of opportunity for improving efficiency we need to exploit in our public sector enterprises', Mr. Seaga said.

Of other foreign exchange saving opportunities under the new contract, Mr. Seaga said that the same situation prevailed with rough lumber in the U.S.A. as with pattern stock.

#### Exports to U.S.

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 22 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] NEW YORK, August 21 (JIS): Jamaican exports to the United States increased over 197 per cent in the January-May period this year, compared to the corresponding months of 1983.

The latest issue of the CBI Business Bulletin of the U.S. Department of Commerce, in which Jamaica is the featured country, shows exports moving from US\$74.9 million in January-May, 1983, to US\$223.3 million January-May 1984.

This performance moved Jamaica from eleventh position to fifth among the Caribbean Basin Exporters to the U.S.A.

In its feature on Jamaica, the Bulletin said the country had 'well-developed commercial infrastructure, a vibrant export community, free zone and shelter programme and a commitment to investment promotion and agri-business development.'

Jamaica has six of 30 investment business opportunities listed in the Bulletin and 16 of 73 exporters listed. The items being offered by Jamaican exporters range from processed farm products to handicraft items, furniture, paint brushes, hardware and welding and fabrication services.

### Lower Export Duties

FL061944 Bridgetown CANA in English 1934 GMT 6 Sep 84

[Excerpts] Kingston, 6 Sep (CANA)--The Shipping Association of Jamaica (SAJ) has lowered by 35 percent the export duty it charged on cargo leaving the Kingston docks in a move to make Jamaican exports more cost competitive and ultimately create more business for the port.

Formerly, the cess was U.S. 7.12 dollars per tonne on break bulk cargo and U.S. 7.20 per tonne on containerised cargo. With the reduction these charges have been reduced to 4.60 dollars and 4.66 dollars respectively.

The changes do not affect imports.

The shipping association said that it hoped the reductions would be an inducement to exporters, who would be better able to take advantage of benefits under Washington's Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) for Central American and Caribbean countries, and the Lome Convention between the European Community and African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states.

Although the cess is quoted in U.S. dollars they are payable in Jamaican dollars.

### Jamaica Dollar's Fall

FL072041 Bridgetown CANA in English 2022 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Excerpts] Kingston, 7 Sep (CANA)--The Jamaican dollar has again fallen against the U.S. currency, losing the 26 cents it gained at Tuesday's Central Bank foreign exchange allocation and parity fixing auction.

Today, banks were quoting the U.S. dollar at 4.11 Jamaica dollars, the clearing rate at Thursday's auction, against the 3.95 dollars it fetched before the change.

The sharp dip put the Jamaican dollar at the rate at which it has hovered mostly since early August, and which forced the government last week to announce new measures to further dissuade credit and dampen consumption.

Analysts here say it was evident that the beefing up of the Central Bank's anti-credit mechanism had not yet filtered through to affect foreign exchange demand. And, with demand relatively high and available foreign exchange low, the value of the Jamaican dollar declined.

Thursday, the Central Bank had only two million U.S. dollars to auction, against 4.1 million dollars in bids that qualified. This compared with five million dollars available Tuesday and a 4.1 million dollar demand.

CSO: 3298/1124

# LOAN PROGRAM FOR SMALL FARMERS GIVEN AIRING

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 18 Aug 84 p 15

[Text] A \$25 million small farmers' loan programme aimed at achieving a major thrust in agricultural production in certain areas of St. James, Clarendon, Manchester, St. Thomas and Portland, was recently announced by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga.

The programme is to be funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), US\$10m.; the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) US\$10m, and the Government of Jamaica, US\$5, and is to be administered by the Agricultural Credit Bank (ACB). The money is to be made available to People's Co-operative Banks (ACBs) serving the selected area to make grants and loans to small farmers.

A release from the JIS states that the net results of the thrust will be the achievement of the Food Sufficiency Programme, which is geared to the Government's efforts at saving foreign exchange by the reduction of imports on certain food items, increasing family nutritional standards, and boosting exports from surpluses.

--Approximately 4,300 small farmers on holdings of two to 10 acres, are to benefit in four major watersheds--Anchovy in St. James, Pindars in Clarendon and Manchester, Trinityville in St. Thomas and Rio Grande Valley in Portland. These will constitute one group of major objectives.

Another group aims at strengthening the institutional and financial framework of agricultural lending in Jamaica.

The Ministry of Agriculture, through its various Division, such as Production, Extension, Forestry and Soil Conservation, along with the Data Bank and Evaluation, will be responsible for implementing the details of the programme.

These include individual or co-operate farm development plans prepared by Extension Officers, so that proper production techniques are practised. This will ensure increased productivity, enabling the farmers to earn enough money to meet their loan obligations and yield a reasonable return on their investments.

--The crops produced in the parishes specified for this small farmers' loan programme will support the combined efforts of the Agro-21 Secretariat in blending with other crops from other parishes, emphasis being optimum agricultural production throughout Jamaica.

At Guy's Hill, which sits on the borders of three parishes--St. Catherine, St. Ann and St. Mary--crops such as tomatoes, cabbage and peas, are being encouraged to be handled by a modern packaging plant, supported by the Farmers' Marketing Producers' Organisation (FMPO) in which 80 members are already registered.

The small farmers' loan programme is, one of a three-pronged approach to assist Jamaicans to become a well fed nation, the release concluded.

CSO: 3298/1125



UN, ISRAEL HELPING WITH WATER DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] An agreement to provide assistance to the value of \$2-million (US\$1/2-million) to produce a National Water Resources Development Master Plan was signed at the Planning Institute of Jamaica yesterday.

About \$1.2-million (US\$300,000) for the project will be provided by a cost-sharing arrangement between the Government of Jamaica and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The Government of Israel will provide consultancy services and overseas training worth \$492,000 (US\$123,000).

The United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development will be the executing agency for the project. It will provide an expert in computerized data banks and modelling of hydro-systems. The United Nations Volunteer Programme will provide the foreign exchanges costs of a hydrologist.

Signing the document on behalf of the Jamaican Government was Dr. Headley Brown, Director-General of the Planning Institute, while Dr. Brenda McSweeney, UNDP Resident Representative, signed on behalf of her organization and the executing agency.

The Ambassador of Israel to Jamaica, Mr. Shlomo Levy, signed on behalf of his Government a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Jamaica.

Also present were Mr. Aaron Jacob, First Secretary, Embassy of Israel; Mr. Thorant Hardware, Director of the Water Resources Division of the Ministry of Local Government; and Mr. Tim Zachernuk of UNDP.

The project, which is to be implemented by the Water Resources Division, starting towards the end of October and lasting three years, will begin by identifying the available water resources of the country; and then match these with the existing and potential future demands for water.

An official statement said that, based upon a strategy for meeting the current and projected demand, a framework for national decisionmaking and technical guidance will be provided for allocating water to the various sectors, thus minimizing conflicts in the allocation and development of this resource.

The plan will help investment in agriculture and industry by ensuring that adequate water exists for any particular project before construction begins.

It will permit replacing a piece-meal sub-sectoral approach by a multi-purpose one, with a view to achieving the most efficient utilization of available water resources.

The UN/DTCD and the Government of Israel will be assisting the Water Resources Division through a training component to extend over the duration of the project, thus enabling the Division to produce the plan and to continue its planning function following the completion of the project.

Also included in the project is the establishment of a computerized water resources data bank as a management tool in water resources assessment, planning, development and use.

CSO: 3298/1125

## BRIEFS

SOCIAL SECURITY MINISTER--The minister of state to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Neville Callimore, has been made a full minister. He is now responsible for social security. [Excerpt] [FL041636 Kingston Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 4 Sep 84]

FISHING PACT WITH COLOMBIA--Jamaican fishermen will be able to take out 1.3 million pounds of fish from Colombian waters during the two-year life of an agreement initialled at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday. This new agreement will replace the previous one which came to an end on August 6, this year. It was intialled by Dr. Neville Callimore, Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Jamaica, and Dr. Laura Ochoa de Ardila, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs on behalf of the Government of Colombia, following intense negotiations. Under the terms of the new agreement, fishermen may catch nine species of fish within 12 nautical miles of the Bajo Nuevo Cay and the Sernilla Cays. Ten vessels will be allowed in these waters--seven independent and three carrier. Actual fishing is done from independent boats while carrier boats transport fishermen (who live on the cays for up to two months at a time), their boats and equipment, and return to collect the catch at regular intervals. The previous agreement came into effect in 1982, but due to administrative difficulties, fishing did not commence until April this year. Until the new agreement is ratified by both governments, and interim agreement allowing fishing not to exceed present levels is in place. The negotiating team consisted of representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Agriculture, led by Dr. Callimore and Mr. Brascoe Lee, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture; a representative from the Attorney General's Deaprtment; and Colombian representatives, led by Dr. Ochoa de Ardila. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 25 Aug 84 p 1]

TIES WITH VENEZUELA--The new Venezuelan Ambassador to Jamaica, Dr. Moritz Eiris Villegas, has expressed a desire for increased economic co-operation between the two countries during his term of office. He expressed this wish when he paid a courtesy call on Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. the Hon. Neville Callimore, on Tuesday, August 21. Dr. Eiris Villegas said that economic co-operation would be his major area of concentration and that he would give strong support to the development of joint venture projects between Venezuelan and Jamaican interests. Dr. Callimore welcomed the Ambassador to Jamaica and noted that there was a history of good relations and mutual respect between the two countries. He also expressed the hope

that increased economic ties would be realized. Dr. Eiris Villegas has had a long span of duty in the Venezuelan Foreign Service, having joined it in 1958. He has served as Venezuelan Ambassador in Gabon and Paraguay and prior to his Jamaica assignment was Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the Latin American Integration Association. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 30 Aug 84 p 37]

NEW SHIPPING LINE--The Port of Kingston is to be used as a major trans-shipment centre for the Evergreen Shipping Line of Taiwan's new round-the-world service, starting this month. The agreement was reached between Evergreen Shipping Line and Jamaica's Port Authority following talks which were initiated some two years ago and in which Jamaica was represented by Port Authority Chairman, Mr. Noel Hylton. The service will provide net foreign exchange inflows to Jamaica through the Port Authority and will generate approximately 100,000 container moves per year. In a ceremony on August 17 onboard the "Ever Garden" the shipping line's first mainliner, Minister of Utilities and Transport, the Hon. Pearnel Charles, welcomed the ship's 17-man crew and said that Jamaica was "proud to be a trans-shipment port and we would try to assist in any areas." [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Aug 84 pp 1, 3]

CSO: 3298/1126

## MEXICO

### VISITING JAPANESE OFFICIALS REMARK ON ECONOMIC ISSUES

#### U.S. Interest Rates

FL241748 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1845 GMT 22 Sep 84

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Sep (NOTIMEX)--Official spokesman for the Japanese Foreign Ministry Hiramoto Seiki has said that the Japanese Government cannot intervene in U.S. economic affairs, but that it does hope that interest rates will decrease.

At a press conference, he said it was possible that those nations attending the joint IMF World Bank meeting could form a positive consensus on lowering U.S. interest rates.

On this topic, the spokesman said that at the Monday meeting through the Japanese finance minister, who officiates as IMF vice president, these nations will express the hope that the interest rates continue downward.

He pointed out though, that the solution to the problem also lies in greater dialogue and more negotiations between the creditor and debtor nations [word indistinct] the financial recuperation of the United States.

The spokesman emphasized that his country has continued traditionally supporting Central America, and at the next OAS meeting, Japan will speak out in favor of the Contadora Group's efforts.

Hiramoto Seki underscored that Japanese cooperation with Nicaragua will be easier when the domestic situation of the Sandinist government normalizes, and begins to diversify its diplomatic relations, not only counting on support from the Soviet Union and Cuba.

In reference to commercial ties with Mexico, he said they continue to increase, and that ambitious iron and steel industrial projects are foreseen for the Lazaro Cardenas-Las Truchas Iron Works and the building of the Nikko Hotel in Mexico City.

Hiramoto Seki said that relations between the two countries are at an optimum level, and that the \$2.4 billion trade exchange favors Mexico by 60 percent.



# Foreign Minister on Debt

FL241802 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1702 GMT 24 Sep 84

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Sep (NOTIMEX)--The problem of world indebtedness must be handled carefully because poor handling could provoke grave repercussions for all countries, Japan's Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe has stressed here.

In a press conference held upon arrival in this capital, he noted that creditor and debtor countries must make every effort to find an appropriate solution to the problem, and said he believes the superpowers must cooperate in a special way to avoid a worse crisis.

The Japanese diplomat, who will hold talks with President Miguel de la Madrid and Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, pointed out that Mexico has been successful in handling its foreign debt, which should be an example for the rest of the debtor countries.

In this sense, he recalled that the Mexican government had recently restructured almost half of its foreign debt, which is why he praised the financial and economic policy implemented by the country's chief of state.

Shintaro Abe stressed that Japan has always cooperated in solving Mexico's economic problems because, due to the good relations existing between the two countries, it is interested in the growth of the national economic recovery.

CSO: 3248/11

INVESTIGATION IDENTIFIES SUSPECTS IN KILLING OF EDITOR

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 2 Aug 84 pp 1-A, 18-A, 19-A

[Article by R. Medina Cruz, R. Hernandez and R. Riva Palacio]

[Text] Officials serving on the Coatzacoalcos city council, in collusion with a low-ranking oil leader, are apparently the authors behind the killing of Veracruz newsman Javier Juarez Vazquez, according to official investigations to which EXCELSIOR has gained access.

Investigations completed over the past two months indicate that the alleged material author of the murder, who acted in the company of other as yet unidentified individuals, is one Gabriel Arturo Chumacero Galindo, who is on the list of the General Public Security Directorate of Veracruz.

Juarez Vazquez, editor of the Coatzacoalcos weekly PRIMERA PLANA, was killed on 31 May, only hours after newsman Manuel Buendia was shot down in Mexico City. The only connection established between the two homicides is that in both cases, one of the principal motives was to silence freedom of expression.

The investigations were completed in the Federal District, Coatzacoalcos, Jalapa, Veracruz and other locations and revealed that various groups of oilmen operating in the state of Veracruz are linked with the highest state authorities. The head of one of the most feared groups, the Sonora Matancera, is Felipe Lagunes, nephew of current Governor Agustin Acosta Lagunes.

Based on investigations, Juarez Vazquez was practically sentenced to death when he rejected the petitions of the mayor of Coatzacoalcos, Juan Hillman, to halt criticisms of his administration and stop his systematic publication of information concerning the mismanagement of local authorities. According to persons with Juarez Vazquez just before he died -- and who were questioned by official investigators -- Hillman threatened him on several occasions.

Hillman

According to investigations, police searches point to Hillman as one of the intellectual authors of the murder. Along with him, research also points to the following as presumed intellectual authors of the crime: Coatzacoalcos inspector Ruben Garcia Albert and the leader of Section 11 of the Trade Union of Petroleum Workers of the Mexican Republic, Francisco Balderas Gutierrez.

In commenting indirectly on the killing, relatives of Juarez Vazquez recall that Garcia Albert threatened the editor of the weekly only days before his death. A newsman from Mexico City who was with him as recently as nine hours before the killing said that Juarez Vazquez asked him not to leave Veracruz because it was the only way he could save his life.

Juarez Vazquez apparently left his house before 0800 hours on 30 May, as he was wont to do. Chumacero Galindo and two or three more persons kidnaped him and took him to an unidentified location.

The motive leading the authors of his death to issue the order is, according to investigators, the attacks aimed at local authorities concerning the embezzlement of millions of pesos from the city council, in addition to the policies of local authorities. Before publishing his weekly, Juarez Vazquez had worked with Hillman.

Local authorities apparently feared more accusations and the response they might have in the national press.

Juarez Vazquez traveled to Mexico City on 29 May aboard a Mexicana de Aviacion flight, using ticket No T-6577018. The reason for his trip was not a visit to Manuel Buendia, as had been speculated due to the fact that on that date, the murdered columnist ate with Veracruz newsmen.

The editor of PRIMERA PLANA arrived in this city with news material for his weekly, which was printed in the Federal District, but that material never reached the publisher. According to investigations, an individual identified as Manuel Angel Fausto Jauregui intercepted him.

Fausto Jauregui, a fugitive sought for a killing in Veracruz, lived in a hotel in the Santa Magdalena colony in the port city, behind the National Lottery building, and has not yet been arrested. Nor is it known what connection he has with the crime.

#### Juarez Vazquez Uncontrollable

According to one police source, Juarez Vazquez "knew everything" about Hillman, who, according to the same source, considered him to be "uncontrollable." These reasons reportedly prompted the authors of the killing, who then entrusted the action to a state policeman.

According to investigations, the team of Chumacero Galindo kidnaped Juarez Vazquez, whom they tortured to learn what he knew and what he could tell them. The body of the newsman had cigarette burns and contusions on various parts of the body.

#### Final Reports

Javier Juarez Vazquez worked in the final days of April on other reports concerning the conduct of municipal authorities in Coatzacoalcas, Minatitlan, even going so far as the adjacent area of Tabasco, always on the same topics: administrative corruption, large-scale cattle rustling and smuggling.

The main scoops of the PRIMERA PLANA editor, as a perusal of the newspaper shows, concerned both local and state authorities. In the reports, he was accompanied by the capital city reporter in whose shop PRIMERA PLANA was printed in Mexico City.

The Veracruz newsman frequently traveled to Mexico City to have his weekly printed. For this reason, he was assumed to be connected with Manuel Buendia, especially because his presence on that 29 May in the capital coincided with that of a group of port newsmen who talked with the EXCELSIOR columnist. However, as he always did, Juarez Vasquez arrived at the printing press and neither knew nor had even indirect relations with Buendia Tellez.

The impression created by his murder was tremendous because it was immediately connected with Buendia's death. Consequently, the state government was forced to become involved in investigating the case, as shown in local and national media, and in following it "to the ultimate consequences."

However, the first group of State Judicial Police assigned to the case did not get beyond what was already publicly known and contained in the expert report on the murder: Juarez Vazquez was bound hand and foot, beaten, tortured with puncturing and cutting objects and apparently burned with cigarettes. He had distinctive marks on the mouth and fingers, as if in an attempt to hurt the most expressive parts of the newsman's body.

#### Relations With Police

The group was relieved and no more information was released by the Office of Attorney General about the motives. However, rumors continued to circulate to the effect that the murder or murders were related to the municipal police and that instructions had perhaps come from high officials.

The deliberate delays in the investigation of the second murder coming only hours after the death of Manuel Buendia even led newsmen and local observers to think that a special large group from the Federal Security Directorate had been moved into the area on the assumption that there was some relationship between the two homicides and that the group would investigate that of Juarez Vazquez.

However, according to the followup of these two police groups whose command was in the capital, it was learned that there were two: one to follow the "crate" of the Buendia case, which had come out of a travel agency near the office in the Pink Zone and in which two persons traveled that fateful day of 30 May to Minatitlan, persons who may have resided in Coatzacoalcos.

The second special group was requested for the deployment effected in mid June by the Federal Judicial Police to make arrests and seizures of smuggled marijuana.

In connection with this homicide, the reports written by Juarez Vazquez were used as a basis to elucidate the presumed murderers and presumed intellectual

authors. Special emphasis was placed on the many "bands" or "special groups" or "gangs of gunmen," especially the most important one at the time, known as the Sonora Matancera.

Local news media and residents in Minatitlan, Coatzacoalcos and Veracruz attribute the creation and support of the latter -- linked with the main assassin -- to Felipe Lagunes and because of the style of work on several occasions, have attributed it to work for hire by certain PEMEX [Mexican Petroleum] trade union leaders, cattlemen and even special security and custody services for the state government. Reports and commentaries on the matter can be found in Jalapa dailies.

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## NICARAGUA

### FSLN REGIONAL OFFICIAL DISCUSSES DEVELOPMENT, MISKITO SUPPORT

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 3 Sep 84 p 9

[Text] "When peace conditions allow, the Miskito settlers who are in Tasba Pri and who want to return to their communities will be able to do so," noted Guerrilla Commander William Ramirez, the political secretary of the Regional Committee of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] in Zelaya Norte, in discussing in detail the situation of Nicaragua's Indians.

Ramirez indicated that there are two distinct situations: first there are people who used to live on the banks of the Coco and who were relocated to the settlements, and then there are the former residents of nine communities in the interior of Zelaya Norte who were transferred because of military conditions to a place known as Sagnilaya.

"We have always maintained," Ramirez emphasized, "that they can return whenever they would like, but it so happens that they don't want to return because they are afraid of the counterrevolution."

"Because they fear the counterrevolution they are asking the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] for military protection, and of course the EPS is not large enough to protect each and every one of the communities in Zelaya Norte," Ramirez stated.

Discussing the status of the Nicaraguan Miskitos in Honduras, Ramirez stated that the best testimony has come from those who have returned from where they were in that country. They report that they were living in subhuman conditions, inevitable concentration camps, that many people died, were wounded or had been taken prisoner or beaten."

"All of the Miskitos who disobey Fagoth's orders are severely beaten," Ramirez asserted, appealing to international organizations, Indian groups and human rights associations to speak out against these wrongs and to reunify the Miskito family.

The Sandinist leader added that "the revolution wants the Miskitos to live together again and those who are in Honduras to return," inasmuch as there is a complete amnesty. "MISURASATA [Miskito, Sumu



and Rama Sandinist Unity] caused the separation among the Miskitos when it forcibly took many Indians to Honduras, and the culprits in the evacuation from the Coco River are the very mercenaries who are murdering the Miskitos," he indicated.

"If the counterrevolutionaries had not attacked San Carlos or the Coco River area, nothing would have happened, and the Miskito family would still be united and living there," Ramirez said.

#### Miskitos in Defense and Production

The political secretary of the FSLN in Special Zone I underscored that the Miskitos who are still in Nicaragua are actively involved in production and defense and already have their own organization (MISATAN), which the Miskitos run and which fights for their interests.

In this regard, Ramirez indicated that the Miskitos can boast of "outstanding involvement" in what Commander Daniel Ortega called "the roots that the revolution has sunk" in that part of Nicaragua.

In this regard, he indicated that the FSLN has 41 Miskito members; ANDEN [National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers] 301 Miskito affiliates; the CDS's [Sandinist Defense Committees] 860 Miskito activists; the JS-19 J [19 July Sandinist Youth] hundreds of Miskito members, and FETSALUD [Federation of Health Workers] 180 Miskito members and 13 Miskito leaders.

He also pointed out that the Government Junta has named a Miskito as its delegate in Special Zone I, Dr Mirna Cunningham, who also belongs to the Sandinist Front. "This is another major achievement," Ramirez said.

After pointing out that around 50 Miskitos have fallen in the war, Ramirez indicated that there are several reserve battalions in Zelaya Norte of which Indians are members and that there are numerous companies in the Tasba-Pri settlements. He added that Indians have also joined the ranks of the MINT and the EPS.

"This means," Ramirez emphasized, "that the Miskito people want no more war, that they want to live in peace, that they are sick and tired of seeing that all of the promises that the mercenaries made them (that they were going to do away with the Sandinists, that they were going to win easily) are lies and that the only thing they have brought is death, bloodshed and pain, the destruction of jobs, health care centers and production facilities and the separation of Miskito families."

## Accomplishments and Specific Answers

He indicated that in contrast to the situation that the Miskitos were in before the revolution, when their harvests were poor and they were in debt to banks, they have now paid off their debts with credit lines of up to 1.5 million cordobas.

They have also managed to grow enough rice for 1 year's consumption for the entire region (it used to be enough for just 2 months) and beans for 6 months (it previously sufficed for only 15 days), without having to transport these items to areas on the Pacific.

There are also cacao, banana, yucca and quequisque growing projects and a small livestock project under way in Zelaya Norte, Ramirez added.

The government is also striving to resolve the major problems that were recently outlined to the coordinator of the JGRN [Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction], Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega. In this regard, the necessary foreign exchange outlays have been approved to bring in experts to reactivate the Siuna mine, which has been shut down for around 50 days because of energy problems. Energy generating equipment has been purchased and will be installed in the first half of 1985, and the minister at the INE [Nicaraguan Institute of Energy] has been given instructions to resume the "Ye-ye" hydroelectric project, which involves the installation of 190 kilometers of power lines between the Santa Rita estate and Siuna.

Meanwhile, the mine will continue in operation, and the government has earmarked a 30-million cordoba subsidy to pay the workers while the energy-related problems are taken care of.

In the area of air transport, two 44-passenger C-46 aircraft are already in operation, and another will be flying by late September. The hope is to buy another plane before the end of the year and two others in the first half of 1985. The idea is to have a fleet of six aircraft to guarantee the movement of cargo and passengers. Bluefields and Corn Island would be on the itinerary.

Moreover, part of the heavy cargo would be diverted to sea, and instructions have been given in this regard to the ministries. An 800-ton freighter is scheduled to be stationed in Ciudad Rama in October, and it will do the run to Puerto Cabezas. The vessel currently on the route has a smaller capacity, and this has led to shortages in Zelaya Norte.

With regard to land transport, 4 trucks and 10 light trucks will be purchased and sold to private shippers with financing from the National Financial System.

Another accomplishment for the Miskitos is that over 960,000 cordobas in debts have been cleared for them, and in communities near Puerto Cabezas, such as Yulo, Kamla, Krukira, Tuapi and Sisin, the residents have recently received 22,555 manzanas [1 manzana=1.75 acres] of fertile land.

## NICARAGUA

### EDITORIAL RECOMMENDS PATIENCE, RESTRAINT IN LABOR DISPUTES

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 31 Aug 84 p 2

[Editorial: "Labor Disputes"]

[Text] With regard to the labor turmoil that has been going on in recent days, we believe that we must point out to all union leaders, whatever their ideological persuasion, that the handling of labor disputes must be commensurate with the difficult situation in which the country finds itself.

In this regard, union leaders must realize that it is not the same to ventilate this sort of problem in a country experiencing normal conditions as in a Nicaragua that is confronting not only an imperialist war but also all of the difficulties that stem from it and that are having tangible repercussions on the various sectors of national life, mainly in the field of economic production.

Under such adverse conditions we must at all costs avoid developments whose social and economic repercussions will aggravate the various woes that external aggression is inflicting on us.

This is precisely the impact of labor disputes that shut companies down, even if the workers' demands are just and can be met.

The correct, revolutionary thing to do, therefore, is for the workers and their leaders to exhaust the administrative and legal channels for pressing their demands and, should they find the response to their requests unreasonable, to resort to other methods of struggle, but not to shutting down companies, because this represents a harsh blow to the country's economy and hence damages other segments of society.

Above all, we must bear in mind that since the triumph of the revolution Nicaragua has had a Labor Ministry that in spite of the shortcomings it might still have is basically there now to serve the interests of the working class, not to defend unilaterally the employers association as under Somoza.

Therefore, the various workers' federations must provide guidance for their respective unions in this regard, because the country is not in a position to withstand a rash of strikes while at the same time having to take care of its military defense.

Company managers and executives must also demonstrate a high degree of responsibility in this matter, however, and attempt to meet the workers' demands when they are just and when it is within their power, or else employ their powers of persuasion to the utmost in the event that problems cannot be settled for reasons beyond their control.

The important thing, in short, is to maintain the employer-employee balance as much as possible and to avoid harming either productivity or output, because to do otherwise would be to play into the hands of imperialism and to cause further problems for the revolution.

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## NICARAGUA

### TIRADO CLOSES CST ASSEMBLY, TRADE UNIONS REJECT STRIKES

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 5 Sep 84 pp 1, 5

[Text] One-hundred and six trade unions of the Sandinist Central Organization of Workers (CST), represented by 579 labor leaders from Region III, yesterday approved a four-point document that denounces the current use of strikes, calls for a review of the poorly evaluated classifiers [calificadores] of SNOTS, strongly condemns government red tape and broaches the supply problem.

Commander of the Revolution Victor Tirado, who closed the special regional assembly of the CST, underscored the importance of the resolutions and asserted that under current circumstances strikes make no sense because they cut production and weaken the revolution.

He added that the most important thing for the working class is to defend the political power it has won, cautioning that in the event of a U.S. invasion the workers cannot be taken by surprise while they are on strike or divided.

Tirado stressed that the workers must build a powerful ideological wall that will enable them to understand the current economic situation and realize why there are shortages.

In addition, he reported that on this past 1 September the United States began a military escalation against Nicaragua with an attack by mercenary pilots on Santa Clara. Tirado noted that in the wake of the serious setbacks that the counterrevolution was dealt in the highlands, imperialism is preparing a series of air attacks directed by the CIA with American pilots.

More than 100 unions yesterday ruled out the use of strikes and pledged to strengthen worker unity through stronger bonds with the rank-and-file by promoting discussion of problems, explaining them, gathering suggestions, etc.

They also called for tighter controls on the distribution of the output from their various companies so that merchandise reaches the workers and to help control the prices of basic items.

As far as their relations with the government are concerned, the unions strongly condemned the red tape in the administration of certain APP [People's Ownership Sector] enterprises and in the Industry Ministry.

In addition, they described the SNOTS as a sound measure for combating wage anarchy but decided to reactivate the branch commissions to take care of the poorly evaluated classifiers.

#### Economic Efficiency

Commander of the Revolution Victor Tirado underscored the importance of the resolutions and recommended in their struggle against red tape that the workers enhance their work discipline and efficiency so that they would have greater moral authority to denounce those in government who are promoting alienation from the masses.

In this regard, he appealed for an end to late arrivals and early departures, as well as to work slowdowns. He added that this would help to boost productivity.

Tirado called for economic efficiency in the sense of cutting production costs to increase profits and thus boost profit margins and productivity. To this end he pointed out the need to promote good relations with technicians and administrators.

#### Failure of Central American Common Market

Tirado asserted that when the workers come to the forefront in these tasks, then we will be able to talk about a homogeneous class that is truly in the vanguard of the revolution.

He also called on the workers to keep an eye on product quality and to make the best possible use of raw materials and other resources.

Tirado began his address by pointing out the gap between the foreign exchange that Nicaragua earns with its farm exports and the foreign exchange it needs to guarantee output and personal consumption.

In this regard he indicated that local industry does not generate foreign exchange, quite the opposite, while the farm sector does bring in foreign currency. He pointed to the failure of the Central American Common Market, whose integration scheme sought to replace imports and thus build up foreign exchange reserves for industrial development. Exactly the opposite happened.

#### Defending Political Power

He then recalled the imperialist blockade and aggressions, which placed an additional burden on the revolution, and on the other side he emphasized the aid from the socialist system and even from certain capitalist countries that have differences of opinion with imperialism.



Referring to strikes, he said that as a political instrument of the working class they are a thing of the past in Nicaragua, but not where the proletariat has not wrested power from the capitalists.

He added that the most important thing for the Nicaraguan working class is to defend the political power that it has gained. "To defend it like your fair-haired child," he noted.

Organization for What?

Mentioning the revolution's accomplishments, he recalled that before its triumph there were 165 unions and that there are now 3,000, which indicates that one of the fundamental achievements has been the right to organize.

He then asked: The right to organize to do what? He answered his own question: To produce and to boost productivity, to achieve all-time highs and to break those records, and to lift the economy up from backwardness.

He went on to say that there is a new element in the unions because the workers are also organized to combat imperialism, to prevent sabotage and to confront the mercenaries head-on in the battlefield.

In warning about the air attacks that the U.S. Government is preparing, the Sandinist leader explained that the Somozist counterrevolution has no pilots capable of flying the aircraft that the Reagan administration has made available for its war against Nicaragua. Therefore, he added, the pilots who bombed Santa Clara and who are scheduled to be involved in future plans are Americans.

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SEMINAR ON PROBLEMS IN FARM CREDIT SYSTEM

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 3 Sep 84 p 8

[Text] The rural credit agents of the BND [National Development Bank] in remote highland areas have held their first seminar, which was called Martyrs of Pancasan.

The executive directors of the Central Bank listened carefully as the rural credit agents outlined the problems they were facing, especially in relation to administrative funding so that they could promptly process loan requests. It was made clear, however, that the cooperatives must employ their own coordination and management methods and, in any event, avoid the paternalistic approach that they have often lapsed into.

Nestor Avendano, the deputy planning minister, had the following to say in his closing speech at the important seminar: "Both MIPLAN [Planning Ministry] and MIDINRA [Ministry of Agricultural-Livestock Development and Agrarian Reform] are to blame for the tardy reporting of costs and prices to producers, but behind this we can see the passivity of the financial system. It must not become a drag on the country's economic policy; it must be an active contributor not only to order but also to the true planning of the country's production and financial goals."

Avendano acknowledged that MIPLAN and MIDINRA were late in delivering funds. He also spoke of excessive modernization, which is not compatible with the country's situation, of the obstacles to obtaining domestic funds and of two specific problems: the shortage of basic items, which fuels inflation, and the lack of external funding.

"We believe," he said, "that rural credit, which is part of our complex financial system, should not be viewed as a paternalistic credit for achieving production goals. There must be financial discipline, just as we in the Planning Ministry demand financial discipline in all of the activities in this sphere of the economy. This applies to you as rural credit agents too," he noted.

He said that credit instruments should protect small growers and that they should not be charged harsh financing costs; much less should the cooperatives, the new form of production organization that the government is promoting. Therefore, the political factors must be analyzed in determining how small growers, whether in cooperatives or not, should be dealt with.

#### Conclusions of the Seminar

Armando Siles, the Central Bank director in Region II, read the main report and its conclusions, the input from each of the participating regions and the highlights of the discussions. As he clarified, however, it remains to summarize all of the speeches. Thus, a document will soon be issued by the Reporting Commission, which summarized in 28 points the problems set forth at the seminar.

The speakers at the seminar made the following points, among others: rural credit offices must be built, expanded or remodeled; technical agricultural and administrative personnel must be hired immediately; each regional office must have a personnel screening and hiring section; a personnel incentive program must be set up; housing and vacations must be made available to them, and transportation must be made available to personnel working in the agencies and living in departmental capitals.

There were also appeals for: the decentralization of the loan program for the purchase of vehicles (jeeps and motorcycles); interest rates, repayment periods, guarantees, etc to be set by the Local Branch Credit Committee; personal loans and salary advances; the formation of support brigades for the agencies; the establishment of a regional training program, with the provision of human and material resources; new credit guidelines, and expanded decision-making powers for Zonal Committees.

One of the conclusions of the seminar was that credit policies and financing budgets had to be made public in January of next year.

There were also calls for greater communication between the home office and the agencies; regular participation of the Agrarian Reform and UNAG delegates in the Credit Committees, as well as training for them to handle loan policy, particularly in Region IV; BND, Agrarian Reform and UNAG training for Boards of Directors of the Sandinist Credit Cooperatives (CCS) in filling out loan applications; agreements with the Education Ministry under which agricultural school students would perform their social service at rural credit agencies; and arrangements with higher authorities so that transportation is used rationally and responsibly, inasmuch as the Financial System's vehicle fleet is in deplorable condition (this would be brought up with the JGRN).

These are some of the 28 specific points in the documents from each of the participating regions.

## NICARAGUA

### FARM EXPORTS TO GENERATE LESS FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 3 Sep 84 p 9

[Article by Teresa Rios R.]

[Text] Managua (ANN)--The high prices of inputs and spare parts on the international market and the weather in the Central American area will have an adverse impact on the profit margins of farm exports.

Even though crop areas were up six percent for the 1984-85 season and output will rise by the same percentage, less foreign exchange will be brought in than during the previous season.

The projected output for this farm year is some 16 million quintals (800,000 net tons), which would amount to some \$360 million, taking into account fluctuations on the world market.

Nicaragua's three main farm exports are coffee, cotton and sugar cane.

Coffee, our leading farm export, will have a crop area of 96,600 hectares this season, 6,930 more than last year, when production hit 1.136 million quintals.

Output is expected to top 1.2 million quintals of coffee, and price prospects are good on the international market because of frost damage to plantations in Brazil and part of Colombia.

There is a series of Central America-wide problems in coffee-growing, however, such as the spread of rot and coffee seed borers, which are ravaging coffee crops. To this end the government is subsidizing some 24,500 hectares of low-yield coffee plantations to control the rot, while the switch is being completed to resistant varieties such as caturra and catuay, which have been planted with up-to-date technology.

#### Cotton

Nicaragua has an 895,000 quintal quota in the International Coffee Organization, where prices are averaging \$150 a quintal. Reports are that because of the poor weather in Brazil, the member countries will propose a review of the export quotas for the markets protected by the organization.

There are parallel markets with preferential prices for the remainder of the coffee output.

Estimates are that coffee sales will bring in about \$158 million this year, compared to \$141.8 million in 1983/1984.

Cotton is expected to bring in some \$127 million, as the crop area expands to 96,600 hectares, up 5,600 from the 1983/84 season. Ninety percent of the crop is grown in the western part of the country.

Cotton earnings have been heavily influenced by higher prices for intermediate inputs such as pesticides and herbicides.

In 1983, production hit 5.775 million quintals of raw cotton (2.5 million gold quintals), which brought in \$112.1 million. The sector was given a 5.7 million cordoba (\$570,000) subsidy to boost prices in marginal areas, where much of the fiber is grown.

### Sugar

The cane crop area has been expanded by some 3,420 hectares in a bid to boost sugar production to about 6 million quintals, 48 percent of which is exported. The remaining 52 percent is used to meet domestic demand.

Sugar has been the item hardest hit by falling prices since 1982, when the United States slashed its import quotas of Nicaraguan sugar by 90 percent as a political pressure tactic.

In spite of this, there has been a steady increase in cane-growing areas. This is the product market that has diversified the most. Sixty-five percent of our sugar is now exported to Algeria, 29 percent to Mexico and 6 percent to the United States.

Nicaragua is investing some \$250 million in this sector to finance the largest sugar complex in Central America, which will put out more than 2.6 million quintals, half of current production. A sugar-based chemical industry will also start up with financing from socialist countries and other nations such as France, Spain and Brazil.

After these items come sesame, tobacco and bananas, which are also major national exports. The exportable output of tobacco and sesame exceeds 419,800 quintals, and some 8 million cases of bananas will bring in more than \$62 million.

### But What About the Aggression?

Private enterprise controls 69.9 percent of our farm exports, with the rest accounted for by the state-run enterprises that were set up after the large estates belonging to the Somoza family and his followers were confiscated.

The Nicaraguan Government is pursuing policies to encourage growers to expand their crop areas. The incentives consist of support prices to insure profit margins and to insulate them from the fluctuating prices on world markets.

Because of the ongoing aggression and the increase in attacks in the northern, central and southern areas of the country, some 5,600 hectares of coffee are not covered at harvest time. Moreover, owing to the expansion of crop areas and the concurrence of peak harvest periods, manpower needs are not being met. This is aggravated by defense needs, as workers who used to be part of production battalions must be concentrated elsewhere. Much of the harvest will have to be mechanized, therefore.

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NICARAGUA

INTERIOR MINISTRY FILM SHORT SHOWN ON SSTV

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 5 Sep 84 p 12

[Text] "Paso Caballos" is the title of a new film by the Public Relations Department of the Interior Ministry. It was produced entirely by combatants and officers in that military institution.

"Paso Caballos," like other film shorts that the Sandinist Television Service has presented and that the Audio-Visual Section of the Public Relations Department has produced, stems from one of the concerns of our interior minister, Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge, who seeks to provide comprehensive training for Interior Ministry cadres and thus achieve development in keeping with the needs of the people and the revolution.

None of the performers in the cast are professionals, though some have acted in ministry social dramas and theater groups. For others this was their first public appearance. In spite of these limitations, as well as funding restrictions and the inadequate equipment that the ministry inherited, the film is both entertaining and interesting.

"Paso Caballos" will be shown today, Wednesday, on Sandinist Television Service Channel 6 at 6:30 in the evening. The plot concerns an infiltration by State Security agencies into the ranks of the enemy and their eventual aborting of a sinister, criminal plot by the counterrevolution.

An agent in the General Directorate of State Security is "recruited" by a group of CIA mercenaries operating in the interior of the country, and after many ups and downs he finds out that...well, better that you see it for yourselves.

We invite you to get comfortable in front of your TV sets today at 6:30 and enjoy this fresh artistic effort by the combatants in the Interior Ministry.

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PCDN'S GUIDO SEES DRAFT AS ELECTION LIABILITY FOR FSLN

PA201945 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Excerpt] The Democratic Conservatives are ready to face the FSLN in the elections, Clemente Guido, presidential candidate of the Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua [PCDN], said yesterday on his return from a visit to Costa Rica. He said his party is ready and willing to face the FSLN in the elections. During a news conference in his party headquarters, Guido also reported on the talks he held with Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge regarding the electoral process.

[Begin Guido recording] Turning to the situation we find in Nicaragua, we told him that there is currently a small opening but not the maximum opening which would be ideal. We told him that there are seven things that we can describe as beneficial in the electoral process. There are also seven things that we can describe as harmful to the electoral campaign. Being objective we explained the beneficial factors so that we would not just present the bad side.

We told him that first of all we have freedom of expression through radio, television, and press but that he should not confuse freedom of expression with press freedom because censorship of the news media still exists in some aspects, especially with regard to the civil war. We told him that we have been broadcasting our rallies over the stations and that we were (?thinking of doing so) over television and that we had not felt any type of pressure or been censored. Secondly, we have freedom to mobilize. In reality, even government vehicles such as those of the [acronym indistinct] are being rented to us. We have received cooperation in this regard. The third factor that I mentioned as beneficial is that we obtained the release of approximately 50 percent of the 85 political prisoners. This was one of our greatest concerns and goals. I told him that we had obtained their release without having to establish any type of political or any other kind of commitment, pact, or obligation with the FSLN. The fourth factor is the reestablishment of habeas corpus. The fifth factor is the reestablishment of the writ of protection.

The sixth beneficial element is that the patriotic military service, as they call it, but which we correctly call the obligatory military service had boomeranged against the FSLN. We believe that the youths who in the past were going to vote for the FSLN are now going to vote against the FSLN to express

their rejection of the obligatory military service because the youths do not want to go die in the border regions to defend a government that is not in line with the ideology or characteristics of the Nicaraguan people.

The last beneficial factor that I mentioned is the technical aid from the Swedish Government. It is doing everything possible so that the count will be as impartial as possible and so that the vote results will be issued, at the latest, in (?8) days. [end recording]

CSO: 3248/3

UNIR LEADERS ON MIGS; PANAMA AGREEMENT REAFFIRMED

PM210823 Paris LE MONDE in French 19 Sep 84 p 10

["M.N." report: "Contra Leaders Want To Hold 'Free Elections 1 Year After Sandinists' Fall'"]

[Text] "If the Sandinistas receive Soviet MiG aircraft we will make every effort to destroy them." The representatives of the anti-Sandinist armed organizations which recently merged<sup>1</sup>--on a stopover in Paris--seem more determined than ever to overthrow the Managua Government by force.

Of course they deny that the elections which are due to take place in Nicaragua on 4 November have any value. "It is merely an export product for the regime," they say, "and all the registered parties are in the Sandinista sphere of influence.... Nonetheless Managua must admit that this product already no longer has a market."

In addition they doubt that these elections can be postponed, although there is strong internal and external pressure for such a postponement.<sup>2</sup> For instance several Latin American leaders, especially Colombian President Belisario Betancur, have advised the Sandinist Front leaders to postpone the elections. They have apparently met with no success, at least not so far.

Strangely enough in September the Managua government did not oppose the official visit to several Latin American capitals of a Democratic Coordination delegation headed by Mr Cruz, although it was "outlawed" in July for deciding not to take part in the November elections owing to the lack of democratic guarantees.

This is one more ambiguity in a complex and violent Nicaraguan situation which the anti-Sandinista leaders describe primarily "in terms of war."

1. The Nicaraguan Reconciliation Unit [UNIR] was formed in Panama on 24 July 1984. It comprises the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance [ARDE], the Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN], Miskito organizations (aside from the southern group of Brooklin Rivera, a friend of Pastora) and representatives of the Atlantic coast blacks.
2. Last week the pro-Soviet Communist Party, linked with the Managua government, itself called for the 4 November elections to be postponed.

"We have 12,000 fighters, all volunteers, inside Nicaragua itself," (Hunduran-based) (FDN leader Mr Calero said. "And one-third of that force is already fighting in the center and the south. This is not a border war. We are awaiting a resumption of U.S. military aid. And we are in fact being approached by organizations led by Vietnam veterans. They are our advisers. But they sometimes take too many risks. Nonetheless we still lack resources and arms, although countries other than the United States are helping us..."

Mr Calero was categorical about the role of former members of Somoza's guard in the FDN. "It is the civilians who run the military in our organization. And only four out of 24 combat groups are led by former national guards..."

Thus Mr Calero and Mr Robelo, leader of ARDE (based in Costa Rica) reject the argument put forward by Mr Eden Pastora (the former Commander Zero who led the "armed wing" of ARDE until he broke with that organization) for not joining UNIR. "What he wanted," they said, "was to be the supreme military chief of all the anti-Sandinista forces. He is not our ally. We separated completely from him in September.... It was a friendly divorce."

"The revolution," they resorted, "is too serious to be entrusted to one man, even Pastora..." Mr Robelo, former Nicaraguan social democratic leader and a former member of the Managua junta, stressed "the rejection of any attempt to return to the Somocista past" and the desire of the signatories of the Panama agreement to "hold truly free and democratic elections 1 year after the Sandistas' fall."

CSO: 3219/1

## NICARAGUA

### BRIEFS

GREECE DONATES WHEAT--The people and government of Greece have donated 2,000 tons of wheat to the Nicaraguan Government as "a demonstration of their deep-seated affection and solidarity," in the words of Ambassador Constantino Vassis, who made the official presentation yesterday to Dr Rafael Cordova Rivas, a member of the Government Junta, at the facilities of the ENABAS [National Enterprise for Staple Foods] central collection enterprise. This is the first food donation from the Greek to the Nicaraguan Government. Two commercial planes and further aid in a new peace ship will be arriving soon as well, the ambassador said in discussing the forms of assistance and cooperation that his government has undertaken with ours. The diplomat had this to say during the symbolic presentation: "We are most eager to help Nicaragua, even though our country also has serious problems, problems similar to yours. We are moved by our deep-seated affection, and we have thus made this donation from our wheat reserves." The governments of Greece and Nicaragua have developed magnificent relations of friendship and cooperation over the past year since leaders of the Sandinist People's Revolution visited that country. Expressing thanks for the donation, Rafael Cordova Rivas, a member of the National Reconstruction Government Junta, described as "significant and very important" the gesture of the Greek people and government. The junta official reaffirmed the Nicaraguan Government's desire for peace, not only in Central America but throughout the world. "As an intellectual power, Greece must become mankind's beacon for peace," he said. The wheat donation is equivalent to 40 percent of a month's domestic consumption and will be distributed among the country's three mills. [Text] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 6 Sep 84 p 10] 8743

CSO: 3248/783



ARGUMENTS FOR, AGAINST SCHOOL OF AMERICAS' CLOSING GIVEN

Chamber of Commerce Appeal

PA102327 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 9 Sep 84 pp 1, 18

[Letter to Panamanian President Dr Jorge Illueca from the Panama Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture; dated in Panama City on 7 September 1984]

[Text] His Excellency Dr Jorge Illueca  
President of the Republic  
Presidency

Mr President:

For some time there has been consideration of, debate about, and decisionmaking on the path that Panama should take with regard to whether or not the School of the Americas should remain in our country.

One argument put forth against continued operation of the school has been that its existence and operation impair Panama's sovereignty. We agree with the statement made by the president of the Colon Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture in a letter to General Manuel Antonio Noriega [commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces] on 9 August to the effect that no one in the nation doubts that Panama exercises sovereignty throughout its territory. The Panama Canal and Neutrality Treaties clearly define the terms under which the Panama Canal will function and outline matters related to its defense, as well as to the use and function of all the installations, sites and lands in the canal area.

We agree with Mr Luque [of the Colon Chamber of Commerce] that the School of the Americas issue must be considered from the viewpoint of real interests that should not be adversely influenced by the concept of sovereignty. Considering the effects of the school's presence and operation, there should be reflection and calm deliberation regarding the position that the Panamanian government adopts vis-a-vis the U.S. Government in any negotiations on its future. We, like our colleague from Colon, believe that the School of the Americas is a military training institution that does not affect our concept of sovereignty and that, moreover, is a real element of survival for many Colon residents.

The benefits derived from the operation of that teaching institution cannot be disregarded unless the national government effectively and immediately presents solutions to the Panamanians residing in Colon who will be harmed economically, socially and in every other way.

Without discussing the merits of the School of the Americas, it is necessary to recall that it has existed in the Colon area for some years, that the Colon economy is greatly depressed, and that the affected Colon residents will not understand the value of decisions that deprive them of the means of working and maintaining their homes through legitimate, productive activities.

We wish to point out to the president the need for an in-depth reexamination of the facts relating to the School of the Americas and the decision as to whether it should be closed.

We think it opportune, Mr President, to note that we must not assume postures contrary to our socioeconomic reality, with foreseeable political consequences.

Our thanks, Mr President, for any attention you may give this letter. We are very truly yours:

Panama Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture

Gilbert Mallol  
Acting president

#### PDC Demands School's Closure

PA132131 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 13 Sep 84 pp A-1, A-14 (A-147)

[Communique from the Christian Democratic Party on the School of the Americas, issued in Panama City on 12 September--capitalized passages published in bold-face]

[Text] PRESS SECRETARY

Date: 12 September 1984

#### COMMUNIQUE ON THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS

Because of the responsibility of guiding the people in matters of national interest, the Christian Democratic Party states that the closure of the so-called School of the Americas must be accomplished.

History has proven that this U.S. institution has not been able to convey a constitutionalist and democratic vision of the military, along with the highest professional training, as our countries need and our peoples desire.

Moreover, the functioning of this school in Panama has established links of complicity between the Panamanian military hierarchy and the Pentagon. This link has made it easy for the military hierarchy to utilize the logistic and

financial support received [from the United States], to become an obstacle to democratization, and to even consummate the fraud in the recent elections. Because of this link, U.S. policies have been used to cover up the electoral fraud in Panama, while reasonably advocating the need for authentic free elections in other countries of our region.

The Christian Democratic Party shares the concern of the trade unions and that of all Panamanians over the unemployment created by the growing economic crisis. Because of this, the installations currently occupied by the School of the Americas should be used for civilian activities, of educational, social and economic nature, that would provide jobs equivalent to those existing at this time. Colon's socioeconomic drama demands, in addition, an emergency plan conceived and executed by the people of Colon themselves, with the effective support of the entire nation, and not the maintenance of a foreign military institution. Meanwhile, the solution of the serious national situation can only result from the reestablishment of confidence in institutions and authorities, through democratization and the struggle against corruption.

The full reaffirmation of our sovereignty, as well as the task of completing our democratization, demand the closure of the so-called School of the Americas, according to the stipulations in the complementary documents of the canal treaties entitled "Agreement on the Activities of the United States in the Republic of Panama." Government spokesmen should put an end to their contradictory statements on this issue which, therefore, are irresponsible.

[Signed] Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon  
President, Christian Democratic Party

#### Criticism by People's Party

PA251300 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 24 Sep 84 p 12a

[Text] The People's Party, the Panamanian Communist Party, has vigorously condemned declarations by business organizations and spokesmen for the oligarchy and imperialism who are clamoring for the so-called School of the Americas to continue operating in our territory. One of these spokesmen has gone so far as to say that one cannot east sovereignty. No patriot would ever have expected such servility. The blood of all the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for national sovereignty over decades of struggle so that the Yankee invaders would leave our territory shows the path of dignity to those who would sell our homeland. On behalf of this blood, all patriotic, democratic, progressive and revolutionary sectors demand the fulfillment of the Torrijos-Carter treaties which set September 1984 as the date for this criminal institution to terminate its activities.

For this reason, we reiterate our determined support for President Illeuca's decision to hand over the school's installations to the Panamanian Defense Forces as of 1 October. Our people demand that nothing remain of the so-called School of the Americas under any disguise or pretense. Panama has to break with this infamous past, which has been tolerated by the oligarchic governments since before 1968. During this period, our country was condemned by the

continent's democratically oriented people because this country permitted the training of antipopular forces whose essential purpose was and is to massacre Latin American peoples in its territory.

The peoples' murderers must leave Panama! Let the people point their accusing finger at all those who live in such a state of moral decadence that they even maintain that we should sell our sovereignty for a plate of lentils. They are the same people who use all kinds of deception to ask for the votes of the masses during electoral campaigns. The people know them and will not forget them.

People's Party Political Bureau

#### CONAC Argues for Closure

PA260030 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Sep 84

[Text] Leaders of the National Confederation of Peasant Settlements, CONAC, have sent President Jorge Illueca a resolution advocating the decision of not allowing the School of the Americas to continue operating in our country. CONAC leaders, led by Secretary General Julio Bermudez, said that the Panamanian people are on guard and are vigilant to insure the faithful compliance of the treaties, and demand full compliance of what was established in the Panama Canal Treaties.

CONAC leaders also said that they are an important part of the people and do not hesitate to advocate the measure. They also pledge to support President Illueca and the Defense Forces of the Republic of Panama in enforcing the treaties.

CSO: 3248/12

NEW FOREIGN CURRENCY REGULATIONS FOR NONRESIDENTS INTRODUCED

The Hague ANP NEWS BULLETIN in English 25 Sep 84 p 3

[Text]

**P a r a m a r i b o / T h e H a g u e**, September 24 - The government of Surinam has introduced a string of new currency exchange regulations for non-residents, in a bid to stem the tide of black market exchange trading, Surinamese newspapers reported at the weekend.

Under the new regulations, visitors staying for more than 10 days will have to buy 500 Surinamese guilders (almost 1,000 Dutch guilders) in hard currency, if they enter the country through Zanderij airport, the country's main airport near Paramaribo.

Those who enter at the Albina and Nickerie border posts and intend to stay more than 10 days will have to purchase 200 Surinamese guilders, the papers said.

Those staying less than ten days will have to purchase 50 Surinamese guilders per day.

Black market exchange rates are often half the official rates. Surinam is currently suffering an acute shortage of foreign currency reserves, which has brought imports to a virtual standstill.

The shortage has partly been caused by the suspension of Dutch development aid following the killing of 15 opposition leaders in Paramaribo on December 8, 1982.

Surinam also suffered a strike earlier this year in the vital bauxite sector, which provides 80 per cent of the foreign reserves.

CSO: 3200/3



SURINAME

BRIEFS

RADIO BROADCASTS TO EUROPE--The Hague, 3 Sep--Beginning yesterday Radio Suriname International started transmitting programs for Europe three times per week on the shortwave band. The programs are intended to improve coverage of Suriname. According to Paramaribo there "are one or two shortcomings" in this respect in the Netherlands media. Radio Netherlands World Service described the transmissions as a reaction by the regime to the broadcasts by the World Service. Suriname International's first broadcast (on 17.755 kHz) was difficult to receive yesterday. [Text] [PM251435 Rotterdam NRC  
HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 3 Sep 84 p 3]

CSO: 3214/4

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